EUROPEAID ACTIVITIES IN BELARUS



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PART 1 – GOOD GOVERNANCE AND PEOPLE-TO-PEOPLE CONTACTS



Border Management and Customs

Summary:

Since 2001, the EC has allocated more than 74 million EUR to assistance to the borders. This makes this area the biggest recipient of aid in Belarus. The main beneficiary institutions are the State Border Committee (SBC RB) and the State Customs Committee (SCC RB).

EC assistance in the past included help to demarcate the Belarusian-Lithuanian and Belarusian-Latvian borders, significant equipment deliveries (mobile x-ray scanners, fibre optic communication cable along the whole border with Poland, etc.), major infrastructure development projects (e.g. border crossing point Kozlovichi 2 at Belarusian-Polish border worth more than 16 million EUR) as well as training and policy advice (e.g. BOMBEL 1 and BOMBEL 2 projects, TAIEX, etc.).

In the coming years, assistance will focus on co-financing the reconstruction of four border crossing points in the framework of the Cross-Border Cooperation programme (two at the Polish, and one each at the Lithuanian and Latvian border), and several projects funded under the Eastern Partnership Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative. It is worth mentioning that the SCC RB is Belarus' most active applicant of EC assistance provided through TAIEX (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange) programme, which funds study visits to institutions in the EU, seminars and workshops with participation of experts from the EU in Belarus as well as EU experts missions to Belarus to provide policy advice on specific questions upon request of an applying beneficiary institution.

The SBC RB is progressing with its objective to become a non-military, fully professional organisation by 2018. The structure of the SBC RB is organised around four directorates and six departments at central level. Currently there are a total of approximately 13.000 personnel, 2000 of whom are still conscripted. The SBC RB has embarked on the implementation of a long-term strategy for the development of the Belarus border service during 2008 – 2017.

The SCC RB concentrates its focus more on the country's economic interests: The Republic of Belarus is at the heart of an international trans-European transport corridor. Approximately 70% of goods entering the territory are in transit. Risk analysis and non-intrusive methods of examination (mobile X-Ray scanners) are used to speed up clearance times and facilitate trade. The "Red and Green Corridor" system of customs clearance for passenger traffic is in place at all major road border crossing points.

UNDER PREPARATION

Accumulated budgets of upcoming national-, and shares in regional, projects for Belarusian authorities (EC contributions only): 4.500.680 €

NATIONAL: Supporting the Republic of Belarus in Addressing Irregular Migration and Promoting Human Rights of Vulnerable Migrants (283-113)
Financing source: ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2012 (023-795)
Contract implementation period: tba
Budget: 2.146.474 € (EC contribution: 1.717.180 € = 80%)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: State Border Committees of the RB
Action location: Smorgon, Minsk

Content: Objective 1: Support SBC in its efforts to modernize the border personnel recruitment and training system in line with the EU Integrated Border Management (IBM) good practices, norms and standards, as well as to enhance the infrastructure and technical capacity of the specialized Training Centre for border guard personnel; Objective 2: Improve institutional and technical capacity of the Psychological Support Service (PSS) of the SBC; Objective 3: Introduce procedures to prevent and respond to issues of sexual and gender-based violence (SGBV) and trafficking in human beings (THB) among and towards migrants, as well as develop mechanisms for the provision of legal and social assistance to SGBV victims through an NGO network.

REGIONAL: Strengthening Surveillance Capacity on the 'Green' and 'Blue' Border between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine – SURCAP/supply component
Financing source: ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2011 (023-080)
Contract implementation period: tba
Budget: 1.900.000 EUR (100% EC-funded)
Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Border Committees of the RB and State Border Guard Service of Ukraine
Action location: Ukrainian-Belarusian border
Content: Budget will be divided by a 1:1 ratio between the two beneficiary countries.

REGIONAL: Creation of an Electronic System of Pre-arrival Information Exchange between the Customs Authorities of the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine
Financing source: ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2012 (023-795)
Contract implementation period: tba
Budget: 4.289.444 EUR (EC contribution: 3.667.000 EUR = 85.55% of overall budget)
Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committees of the RB and State Customs Service of Ukraine
Action location: Ukrainian-Belarusian border
Content: Budget will be divided by a 1:1 ratio between the two beneficiary countries.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Accumulated budgets of ongoing national-, and shares in regional, projects for Belarusian authorities (EC contributions only): 19.030.000 €

Budget of the ongoing regional project for Belarusian authorities where Belarus' share is not identifiable: 2.000.000 € (all 100% EC funded)

NATIONAL: Construction of relocatable X-ray scanning control system of vehicles on the road checkpoint 'Bruzgi'
Financing source: Poland-Ukraine-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme 2008 (020-299)
Contract implementation period: tba
Budget: 2.722.222 EUR (EC contribution: 2.450.000 EUR = 90,00%)
Coordinator: Joint Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of Regional Development of Poland
Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of the RB
Action location: Road checkpoint "Bruzgi"
Content: Construction of a relocatable X-ray scanning control system of vehicles on the road checkpoint Bruzgi (http://www.pl-by-ua.eu)

NATIONAL: Construction and Equipment of the border crossing point 'Privalka' located at the border of the Republic of Belarus with the Republic of Lithuania: introduction of a non-intrusive inspection technology
Financing source: Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme 2008 (020-324)
Contract implementation period: 01/04/2012-30/06/2014 (27 months)
Budget: 2.777.778 EUR (EC contribution: 2.500.000 EUR = 90,00%)
Coordinator: Joint Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania

Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus
Action location: border crossing point Privalka
Content: Construction and equipping of the border crossing point Privalka (http://www.enpi-cbc.eu)

NATIONAL: Construction and Equipment of the Border Crossing Point 'Grigorovshchina' located at the border of the Republic of Belarus with the Republic of Latvia: introduction of a non-intrusive inspection technology
Financing source: Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme 2008 (020-324)
Contract implementation period: 01/04/2012-30/06/2014 (27 months)
Budget: 2.777.778 EUR (EC contribution: 2.500.000 EUR = 90,00%)
Coordinator: Joint Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania
Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of the Republic of Belarus
Action location: Border Crossing Point Grigorovshchina
Content: Construction and equipping of the Border Crossing Point Grigorovshchina (http://www.enpi-cbc.eu)

NATIONAL: Construction and instrumentation of the road border checkpoint 'Peschatka'
Financing source: Poland-Ukraine-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme 2008 (020-299)
Contract implementation period: 01/02/2012-31/01/2015
Budget: 12.110.000 EUR (EC contribution: 10.900.000 EUR = 90%)
Coordinator: Joint Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of Regional Development of Poland
Contractor: tba
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of the RB
Action location: Road checkpoint "Peschatka"
Content: Construction and equipping of the road border checkpoint Peschatka (http://www.pl-by-ua.eu)

REGIONAL: Strengthening the capacity of dog handling services of border guarding institutions
Financing source: Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus ENPI CBC Programme (020-324)
Contract implementation period: 24 months
Total budget: 555.694,32 EUR (EU contribution: 500.124,88 EUR = 90%)
Coordinator: Joint Technical Secretariat under the Ministry of the Interior of Lithuania
Contractor: State Border Guard College of Republic of Latvia
Beneficiary in Belarus: State Border Committee
Action location in Belarus: Smorgon
Content: In the course of the implementation of the project it is planned to carry out activities, which aim at the improvement of the qualitative capacity of the dog breeding services of the border guard services of the two countries. The main results of the project will be the improvement of theoretical knowledge and practical skills of the personnel of the border guard services, as well as the improvement and modernisation of the resource base of the dog breeding services to the level and standards of European Union member states. The activities of the project encompass theoretical seminars for partners' personnel, purchase of new service dogs and equipment, purchase of new specialised transport vehicles, and construction of infrastructure facilities. Belarus' share: 330.000 EUR

REGIONAL: Strengthening Surveillance Capacity on the 'Green' and 'Blue' Border between the Republic of Belarus and Ukraine - SURCAP (280-183)
Financing source: ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2011 (023-080)
Contract implementation period: 23/03/2012-22/03/2014
Budget: 765.000 EUR (EC contribution: 700.000 EUR = 91.5%)
Contractor: IOM (Joint Management)
Beneficiaries: State Border Committees of the RB and State Border Guard Service of Ukraine
Action location: Ukrainian-Belarusian border
Content: Budget is divided by a 1:1 ratio between the two beneficiary countries. Expected results: (a) Legislative and institutional framework, under direct supervision and guidance from the expert(s), for the organization and practical implementation of coordinated patrolling of the BY-UA border developed; (b)

Technical specifications for the equipment, to be procured by the responsible EU Delegation, prepared; (c) Border guard instructors of both countries in coordinated border patrolling methodologies and techniques trained; (d) Training of border patrols in coordinated border management (surveillance and operations) issues delivered; (e) Specialized guidelines on the practical implementation of coordinated border patrolling at BY/UA border developed and published; (f) National Training Modules for raising professional qualification and skills of border staff of Belarus/Ukraine developed.

REGIONAL: Integrated Border Management Flagship Initiative Training Project ("IBM FIT") (258-606)
Financing source: ENPI East Regional Action Programme 2010 (022-266)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2011-01/01/2013
Budget: 2.000.000 EUR (Joint Management with Int. Org.)
Contractor: ICMPD
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: State Border Committee of the RB
Action location: 6 beneficiary countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine)
Content: Specific Objectives: (a) To facilitate inter-institutional dialogue among the border agencies in beneficiary countries, EU member states and other international stakeholders on border related issues; (b) To elaborate a monitoring mechanism to assess the long-term impact of the EaP IBM Flagship initiative; (c) To increase IBM awareness in all six Eastern Partnership Countries and to support the establishment of coherent road map for implementation; (d) To enhance operational capacities by providing operational and country specific capacity building activities on specified topics based on needs identified by the beneficiary institutions; (e) Awareness raising and support to the appropriate fight against corruption in the 6 EaP countries; (f) To contribute to the establishment of modern training system in the 6 beneficiary countries

PAST PROJECTS

Accumulated budgets of past national-, and shares in regional, projects for Belarusian authorities (TAIEX events not included): 51.257.669,42 € (EC contributions only)

Accumulated budgets of past regional projects for Belarusian authorities where Belarus' share is not identifiable (contracts 025-836, 025-837, 025-838, 025-839, 026-725, 026-937, 030-315, and 129-155): 21.157.667,11 € (all 100% EC funded)

REGIONAL: Combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials in selected FSU and Mediterranean Basin countries and preparation of border management activities in ASEAN region (219-636)
Financing source: IfS AAP 2008 - Priority 1 "Non-proliferation of WMD" (020-475)
Contract implementation period: 02/12/2009-02/12/2012
Budget: 6.700.000 EUR (Service)
Contractor: Joint Research Centre
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: 6 Belarus border crossing points on the border with the EU
Content: Border Monitoring Activities in Belarus - procurement of the equipment (radiation portal monitors and pagers as well as a communication system for central alarm and 5 mobile laboratories for 5 oblasts worth 1 million EUR) for the detection of nuclear and radioactive materials at borders and other crucial nodal points as well as provision of related training. In Belarus, project is called "RADBEL".

REGIONAL: Combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive materials in FSU countries (Russian Federation, Ukraine, Armenia, Moldova, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Belarus) (145-156)
Financing source: IfS AAP 2007 - Priority 1 "Non-proliferation of WMD" (019-556)
Contract implementation period: 11/07/2008-12/04/2013
Budget: 5.000.000 EUR (Service)
Contractor: Joint Research Centre
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: State Border Guard Committee and the State Customs Committee
Action location: 6 Belarus border crossing points on the border with the EU, 5 oblasts

Content: Preparation of contract 219-636 (see below) worth approx. 0,25 million EUR: Activities focus on preparation of tendering procedures and documents. In Belarus, project is called "RADBEL".

NATIONAL: Establishment of data networks for the Border and Customs Committees in Belarus: Lot 1 - Supply of nodal equipment (143-184) *(= "BOMBEL 3/Supply")*
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2006 (017-985)
Contract implementation period: 08/07/2009-07/10/2011
Budget: 2.559.749 EUR (Supply)
Contractor: Belabstelekom
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Whole Belarusian-Polish border; project office is based in Brest
Content: Provision of the necessary equipment (cable allowing communication between border pickets/outposts and their HQ) along the Belarusian-Polish border

NATIONAL: Supervision of works and coordination of supplies for establishment of a data network in Belarus (252-288) (= *"BOMBEL 3/FWC")*
Financing source: ENPI East RAP 2009 (020-584)
Contract implementation period: 09/11/2010-05/09/2011
Budget: 181.475 EUR (FWC)
Contractor: Ove Arup
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Whole Belarusian-Polish border; project office is based in Brest
Content: The specific objectives are: Supervision of the BOMBEL 3 works and BOMBEL 3 supply contracts (establishment of a data network for the Border and Customs Committees in Belarus)

NATIONAL: Establishment of data networks for the Border and Customs Committees in Belarus: Lot 2 - Installation of inter-nodal links (143-182) *(= "BOMBEL 3/Works")*
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2006 (017-985)
Contract implementation period: 07/08/2009-06/08/2011
Budget: 4.245.749,76 EUR (Works)
Contractor: Tsentrzvyazstroy
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Whole Belarusian-Polish border; project office is based in Brest
Content: Provision of the necessary infrastructure (digging of ditches) to lay a cable allowing communication between border pickets/outposts and their HQ along the Belarusian-Polish border

REGIONAL: Cross Border Cooperation (CBC) Programme Support Unit (PSU) in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (129-155)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2005 (017-099) and TACIS CBC 2006 (017-985)
Contract implementation period: 06/11/2006-06/11/2010
Budget: 2.247.005 EUR (Service)
Contractor: Ove Arup
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Whole Belarusian-Polish border; project office is based in Brest
Content: Supervision of the implementation of the Demarcation of the Belarus border (069-577), BOMBEL 3 works and BOMBEL 3 supply contracts (establishment of a data network for the Border and Customs Committees in Belarus).

REGIONAL: Supply of Mobile Inspection and Screening X-ray Scanning Systems for State Customs Services of Belarus and Ukraine (162-079)
Financing source: TACIS Ukraine Action Programme 2005 (017-093), TACIS Regional Action Programme 2005 (017-098), TACIS CBC 2006 (017-985), TACIS Ukraine Action Programme 2006 (018-038) and TACIS Regional Action Programme 2006 (018-039)
Contract implementation period: 17/07/2008-17/01/2010
Budget: 27,822,000 EUR (Supply)

Contractor: Rapiscan System Limited
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Focus in Belarus on BCPs in: Kozlovichi (Brest), Oshmiany (Grodno Oblast), Bruzgi, Berestovitsa and Benyakoni
Content: Belarusian component of this contract is 5 scanners for a total budget of 7.196.000 EUR, including training and spare parts.

NATIONAL: Border Management in NIS countries: Provision of Border and Customs Control Equipment Lot 3 Engineering Equipment (167-635)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2006 (018-039)
Contract implementation period: 09/12/2008-09/12/2009
Budget: 1.074.695,85 EUR (Supply)
Contractor: Unit Export Limited
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Activities are entirely focussed on Brest
Content: Provision of Border and Customs Control Equipment

NATIONAL: Border Management in NIS countries: Provision of Border and Customs Control Equipment Lot 2 Computers and Network (144-109)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2006 (018-039)
Contract implementation period: 25/11/2008-25/11/2009
Budget: 417.828 EUR (Supply)
Contractor: Patriarch Computer Service Cooo
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Activities were entirely focussed on Brest
Content: Provision of Border and Customs Control Equipment

NATIONAL: Enhancing Border Management in the Republic of Belarus - BOMBEL 2 (104-281)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2001 (000-559)
Contract implementation period: 11/08/2006-31/12/2007
Budget: 9.066.000 EUR (Grant to Int. Org.) (EC contribution: 8.800.000 EUR – 97,07%)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Many locations in Belarus
Content: 7.976 million EUR of the total budget (88%) was spent on equipment, mainly on the purchase of cars, automation equipment capable of doing biometric checking at road and railway BCPs, equipment for 7 mobile border guard patrols, automated information system for registration and retrieval of criminals. Also, funds were allocated on the construction of facilities for irregular migrants, persons with invalid documents and refugees at the Belarusian-Ukrainian border.

NATIONAL: Kozlovichi II Border Terminal. Equipment supply - Lot No 1 (099-392)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2002 (000-633)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2006-01/01/2007
Budget: 503.047 EUR (Supply)
Contractor: Supply-U Limited
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Border crossing point Kozlovichi
Content: Provision of inspection devices, video spectral comparator, endoscopes, etc.

NATIONAL: Enhancing Border Management in the Republic of Belarus (100-530) (= *"BOMBEL 1"*)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2001 (000-559)
Contract implementation period: 01/03/2005-31/12/2006
Budget: 4.651.314 EUR (Grant to Int. Org.) (EC contribution: 4.430.314,60 EUR)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB

Action location: Many locations in Belarus
Content: (a) Improvement of Border Management Techniques, (b) Capacity Building at the Dog Training Centre in Smorgon, (c) strengthening cross-border cooperation among transit countries – regional conference, (d) Provision of Equipment, Related Infrastructure and Training, (e) Establishment of a Migrant Accommodation Centre in Brest, and (f) seminars on trafficking of radioactive & nuclear materials and equipment supply in compliance with ISO 21888.

NATIONAL: Demarcation of the Belarus border (069-577)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2002 (000-633)
Contract implementation period: 26/10/2005-26/12/2006
Budget: 1.992.710,64 EUR (Works)
Contractor: Minskvodstroy
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee of RB
Action location: Latvian-Belarusian and Lithuanian-Belarusian border
Content: The scope of works included the design and construction of border demarcation works over a length of approximately 205 km, 175km of which were on the border with Latvia and 30km with Lithuania. The works included a five-metre strip cleared and levelled, 463 border- & centreline posts and 52 water buoys, surveys, designs, manufacturing & delivery of materials, obtaining the necessary permissions & approvals, the rehabilitation & protection of drainage systems, the construction of footbridges (2,4 km in length in total) across streams and ravines, the repair of 10 km of access roads, protection works of 3000 square metres of water channel banks in the places of installation of border posts, rehabilitation of 3,15 kilometres of water channel banks and the construction of paths in swamp areas.

NATIONAL: Kozlovichi II Border Terminal. Equipment Supply - Lot No 3,4,5,6 (115-102)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2002 (000-633)
Contract implementation period: 20/12/2005-20/12/2006
Budget: 974.455 EUR (Supply)
Contractor: Folgat FTC LLC
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Border crossing point Kozlovichi
Content: Provision of computer equipment and computer software, radio equipment; telephone equipment, video surveillance system (CCTV) equipment

REGIONAL: Border Management in Russia, Belarus, Ukraine and Moldova (030-315)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2001 (000-560) and TACIS CBC 2003 (005-883)
Contract implementation period: 02/01/2003-02/10/2006
Budget: 2.575.317,50 EUR (Service)
Contractor: Ove Arup
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Several locations in Belarus
Content: (a) To continue support to the contracts established under the 1996 to 1999 CBC funding programmes. (b) To prepare tender dossier, assist tender evaluations and supervise works contracts for new or modified border crossings under the Tacis 2000, 2001 and 2002 funding. (c) To prepare tender dossier, assist tender evaluations and procure equipment for border crossings under the Tacis 2000, 2001 and 2002 funding.

NATIONAL: Kozlovichi II Border terminal (096-431)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 2000 (000-531) and TACIS CBC 2002 (000-633)
Contract implementation period: 12/01/2005-24/06/2005
Budget: 14.000.000 EUR (Works)
Contractor: Budimex SA
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Border crossing point Kozlovichi
Content: Construction of border crossing point Kozlovichi

NATIONAL: Belarus Border Posts Equipment Supply

Financing source: 1998
Contract implementation period: 2001-30/11/2003
Budget: 988.991,57 EUR
Contractor: No info available
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: Computers, communication- and office equipment was procured for the border posts at Kamennyy Log, Kozlovichi and Varshavskiy Most (Brest Terespol) under a single tender.

NATIONAL: Lithuanian Border Demarcation (No info on CRIS no. available)
Financing source: 1998
Contract implementation period: 17/05/2002-11/04/2003
Budget: 1.298.453 EUR
Contractor: Minskvodstroi
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee of RB
Action location: Lithuanian-Belarusian Border
Content: The scope of works included the design and construction of border demarcation works along approximately 515 km of the total border length of 650 km of the Belarus/Lithuania State Border.

REGIONAL: Strengthening border management at the Belarus-Ukrainian border (026-937)
Financing source: TACIS Inter State Programme 1998 (000-467)
Contract implementation period: 29/12/2001-29/09/2002
Budget: 811.173 EUR (Service)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee of RB
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: Border Crossing Programme Supervision Unit (025-836, 025-837, 025-838, 025-839) and Works Supervision Contract (026-725)
Financing source: TACIS Cross Border Cooperation Programme 1996 (000-431) (025-836, 025-837), TACIS Cross Border Cooperation Programme 1997 (000-448) (025-838), TACIS Cross Border Cooperation Programme 1998 (000-476) (025-839) and TACIS Cross Border Cooperation Programme 1999 (000-506) (026-725)
Contract implementation period: 03/02/1999-03/01/2002 (025-836, 025-837), 03/02/1999-03/01/2003 (025-838), 03/02/1999-03/06/2003 (025-839) and 28/05/2001-28/12/2002 (026-725)
Budget: 3,347,823.24 EUR (Service; 025-836), 943.570 EUR (Service; 025-837), 1.724.800 EUR (Service; 025-838), 8.066.738,98 EUR (Service; 025-839) and 1.441.239,39 EUR (Service; 026-725). **Total: 15.524.171,61 EUR**
Contractor: Ove Arup
Beneficiaries: State Border Committee and State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Kamenny Log Border Crossing, Lithuanian Border Demarcation, Brest
Content: Supervision of several BM projects in the Western NIS, including Belarus, and execution of several feasibility studies. Supervised contracts in Belarus: Kamenny Log Border Crossing (026-499), Lithuanian Border Demarcation (see above; no CRIS contract no. available), Belarus Border Posts Equipment Supply (see above; no CRIS contract no. available). Studies in Belarus: Brest Euroborder Study, Legislation Study and Border Study Update.

NATIONAL: Kamennyy Log Border Crossing (026-499)
Financing source: TACIS CBC 1999 (000-506)
Contract implementation period: 15/01/2001-15/01/2002
Budget: 1.344.200 EUR (Service)
Contractor: "CONST-MOUNT 19" (Belarusian JS company open type)
Beneficiaries: State Customs Committee of RB
Action location: Border crossing point Kamennyy Log

Content: Construction at border crossing point Kamennyy Log: The project comprised construction of an administration building for customs processing and services (approximately 1246 m2) and canopies with booths for customs and passport inspections together with associated road works and parking.

Capacity and Institution Building for Public Administration



Summary:
Projects in the field of capacity building for public administration focus mostly on governmental institutions which are involved in the identification and implementation of EU technical assistance. They are **National Coordinating Unit and line ministries** involved in Annual Action Programmes such as Ministry of Environment, Ministry of Energy, State Standardization Committee, etc. The total budget for these measures is €2.5 million.

Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument (**TAIEX**) is another instrument which helps public administration to build their capacity through workshops and information exchange with their counterparts from the EU. This instrument enables to make EU expertise available to beneficiaries in a short period of time.

There is also a regional project covering both ENPI East and South (**Preparing Staff for EU-ENP-related Jobs**) which targets members of public administrations working with the EU and creates a forum for their training and communication at the ENPI level.

Twinning and **SIGMA** instruments are for the moment not available for Belarus.

INITIATIVES

The **Twinning Instrument** has been discussed for Belarus but the discussion stopped short following the Presidential Election of December 2010.

Considering the ongoing Sigma Agreement ENPI/2011/259993 Belarus is included in the ***potential beneficiaries*** of the **SIGMA Programme.** Still, the launching of the SIGMA instrument to a new country is a joint decision of the European Commission and the OECD, the two signatories of the Agreement.
For the moment Belarus is excluded from SIGMA programme. Since the launch of the Programme to ENPI countries in 2008 priority was given to the launch of activities in the following countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Egypt, Georgia, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco, Tunisia and Ukraine. Lebanon followed in February 2010.
Due to the limited financing capacity of this second ENPI SIGMA Agreement, the budget is close proximity of being completely booked and the absorption capacity of the SIGMA experts is also limited. In this way Belarus is not likely to be included in the SIGMA Programme, though the management of the Programme is informed of the explicit wish of the Ministry of Economy to start SIGMA in Belarus (as of 12.03.2012).

UNDER PREPARATION

NATIONAL: Capacity Development Facility to support the implementation of sector programmes under the ENPI Annual Action Programmes for Belarus
Financing source: Annual Action Programme 2009
Contract implementation period: tbc
Budget: 1,500,000 EUR (Service Contract)
Contractor: *to be contracted early in 2013*
Beneficiaries: National Coordinating Unit + line ministries involved in EU programmes
Action location: Minsk + regions
Content: Overall objective is to enhance capacity of selected Belarusian organisations to implement ENPI and develop strategies for sectors of cooperation.

NATIONAL: Capacity Development to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus
Financing source: Annual Action Programme 2010
Contract implementation period: tbc
Budget: 1,000,000 EUR (Service Contract)
Contractor: *to be contracted early in 2013*
Beneficiaries: All major stakeholders involved in the PPP
Action location: Belarus
Content: The overall project objective is to increase the capacity of the public and private sectors, the academic community and civil society in the PPP process, with a view to promote, develop, deliver, operate and manage public-private partnership projects for infrastructure development.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: Interim Technical Assistance to the National Coordinating Unit in Belarus (276-902)
Financing source: ENPI Global Allocation 2010
Contract implementation period: 01/2012 – 11/2012
Budget: 128,722.00 EUR (FWC)
Contractor: EUROPEAN CONSULTANTS ORGANISATION SPRL
Beneficiaries: National Coordinating Unit
Action location: Minsk
Content: Provision of interim technical assistance before the launch of a larger service contract in 2012

REGIONAL: Preparing Staff for EU-ENP related jobs
Financing source:
Contract implementation period: 01/2011-12/2013
Budget: 2,000,000 EUR
Contractor: College of Europe
Beneficiaries: Belarusian governmental institutions
Action location: ENPI East + ENPI South
Content: Objectives are as follows: to enhance the professional skills and ENP-specific knowledge of relevant staff from the civil service and public administrations of ENP partner countries so as to enable them to gain a better understanding and appreciation of the European Neighbourhood Policy and other relevant EU policies; to help improve the effectiveness of policies and relationship between the EU and the neighbourhood countries; to help deepen political dialogue and cooperation with each of the neighbours. Activities consist in the design and organisation of a minimum of 12 training sessions over the whole duration of the project of at least 5 days each (including travel). The number of participants ranges between 30 and 50.

Approximation, application and enforcement of EU legislation via TAIEX instrument (Technical Assistance and Information Exchange Instrument) http://taiex.cec.eu.int/. A range of Belarusian governmental institutions, such as Ministry of Economy, State Border Guards Committee, State Customs Committee, State Committee on Science and Technologies and others, benefit from short-term expertise and technical assistance provided within TAIEX.

PAST PROJECTS

NATIONAL: Support to National Coordinating Unit in Belarus (141-266)
Financing source: National Action Programme 2005
Contract implementation period: 2008-2010
Budget: 600,000 EUR (Service Contract)
Contractor: Human Dynamics
Beneficiaries: National Coordinating Unit
Action location: Minsk

Content: The overall objective of the project was support the capacity of Belarus to make best use of EU technical assistance, in particular, through support to NCU (www.cu4eu.net). Activities were implemented in four components: Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building; Support to the ENPI implementation; Support to planning and coordination of EC assistance; Public awareness and visibility.

SUPPORT FOR CBC IMPLEMENTATION

The Regional Capacity Building Initiative (RCBI) mainly focuses on the CBC (former Neighbourhood Programmes extended to the ENPI CBC) in Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine and Russia. This project includes a training component for all structures eligible under the NPs and ENPI CBC (local, regional authorities, and NGOs on the Western side of Belarus, including Minsk Oblast).
Regional Capacity Building Initiative II (RCBI II) – start date 01/01/07, end date (planned) 31/12/2009; primary commitment €4,000,000
The project continues supporting Partner Countries until June 2012.

Combating Human Trafficking, Drugs & Crime



Summary:

EU assistance to the country on these three topics has always been unevenly balanced: While the focus was on fighting drug trafficking and drug addicts rehabilitation for many years through three major regional projects ("BUMAD" = Belarus-Ukraine-Moldova Anti-Drug Action) worth approximately 6.5 million EUR, assistance was discontinued in these areas in 2009 and partly (fight against drug trafficking) incorporated in border management projects. The centre of attention has now shifted to combating human trafficking. Fighting crime has never been addressed in the framework of a stand-alone project but is being covered under the TAIEX programme.

Overall, assistance to all three areas has always been comparatively small. Moreover, it appears that the EC has no plans to increase support and will continue procuring interested contractors through global call for proposals and the TAIEX programme (no direct agreements any more with, for example, the UNDP).

Since 2001, the EC has allocated accumulated budgets for past and current projects worth 9.1 million EUR.

The main recipients of assistance in these three areas are the State Border Committee, the Ministry of the Interior, state prosecutors and NGOs.

CURRENT PROJECTS

REGIONAL: Strengthening national mechanisms for the reintegration and rehabilitation of victims of human trafficking in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (255-867)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2010 (022-214), Call for Proposals 128-764 / lot 2 / application 21
Contract implementation period: 15/04/2011-14/04/2013
Budget: 799.968 EUR (EC contribution: 639.974 EUR – 79,99%)
Contractor: International Federation of the Red Cross
Beneficiaries: Victims of human trafficking, Red Cross of Belarus
Action location: The Belarus Red Cross currently runs five regional consultation centres (Brest, Vitebsk, Grodno, Gomel and Mogilev) and two district centres (Novopolotsk and Mozyr) offering support to victims of trafficking identified in, or returned to, Belarus.
Content: Results in Belarus: Six victims of human trafficking (VoTs) multidisciplinary reintegration focal groups created in each of the six Oblasts of Belarus which actively engage in the coordination of CT activities, prevention measures and reintegration assistance to VoTs (= Result 1.6); 15 Red Cross focal points in Belarus, 9 in Moldova and 10 in Ukraine trained as trainers on VoT identification and referral, in particular on the specific health needs of VoTs (= Result 2.1); in Belarus, 100 Red Cross home visiting nurses, 50 in Moldova and 100 in Ukraine trained on identification, referral and rehabilitation of VoTs and actively involved/participating in the MDTs in their respective regions (= Result 2.2); improved quality of assistance provided to VoTs at five Red Cross Helping Hands Centres; (= Result); Red Cross Visiting Nurses in Belarus provide social and medical follow up for after VoTs return to their home communities (= Result); access to medical and psychological assistance to 70 VoTs is provided through Rehabilitation centre operation (= Result); Provision of comprehensive and individual reintegration assistance through Red Cross Helping Hands centres in Belarus to 100 VoTs ensured (= Result 3.4).

PAST PROJECTS

Accumulated budgets of past national projects for Belarusian authorities (EC contribution only): 2.026.166 EUR

Accumulated budgets of past regional projects for Belarusian authorities where Belarus' share is not identifiable (EC contributions only): 6.437.810,82 EUR

NATIONAL: Preventing, Fighting and Addressing the Social Consequences of Trafficking in Human Beings in the Republic of Belarus – BELTRAFFIC 2 (162-612)
Financing source: TACIS Belarus Action Programme 2005 (017-095)
Contract implementation period: 01/09/2008-31/12/2010
Budget: 1.334.550 EUR (EC contribution: 1.200.000 EUR – 89,92%)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: Ministry of the Interior, Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare, State Border Committee, NGOs (Young Women Christian Association of Belarus, Business Women Club in Brest)
Action location: throughout the country
Content: The project aims to enhance national capacities in fighting THB with preventive measures and better protection and rehabilitation of victims of trafficking. In particular, the project aims to improve coordination and information-sharing among responsible agencies and NGOs; to scale-up advocacy, training and awareness-raising campaigns geared at various target groups; to develop victim protection and reintegration programmes based on best international practices; to enhance the capacity of rehabilitation centres, NGOs and local centres for social assistance to provide prevention services. The project will also contribute to generating part-time and long-term employment for women and young people.

REGIONAL: BUMAD 3 (099-339)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2004 (016-767)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2007-31/03/2009
Budget: 2.200.000 EUR (EC contribution: 2.000.000 EUR – 90,91%)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: drug laboratory of the State Expert Criminalistic Centre of the Ministry of the Interior, Department of Counter Narcotics and its regional units, State Border Guards Committee, Monitoring Centre for Drugs and Drug Addiction at the Grodno State Medical University
Action location: In Belarus: Minsk, Grodno
Content: Project 1 – Drug policy development: Component 1 – Legal Assistance (national training for judges and prosecutors, support to the Task Force on legislation and drug policy making mechanism, provision of specialized equipment for Supreme Justice Court, police statistics [Ukraine]); Component 2 – National Drug Observatory (national trainings on key epidemiological indicators, Study tour to EMCDDA in Lisbon).
Project 2 – Capacity Building: Component 3 - Land border and in-country transportation system control (assessment of training/equipment and controlled delivery needs, provision of search equipment, national training on enhancing capabilities to counteract drug trafficking, regional seminar on controlled deliveries); Component 4 – Police intelligence capacity building (needs assessment, provision of equipment to national law enforcement agencies, national advanced training on management of Drug Intelligence Data/Crime Analysis, regional training on dismantling of illegal drug laboratories, study tour to EU country, two-week train-the-trainer course for instructors at MoI Academies); Component 5 – Seaports control system in Ukraine and Moldova (improvement of information exchange between seaports around the Black Sea, support to Working Group on creation of information exchange system, monitoring and expert's support of functioning drug combating units at the sea ports, training on investigation of drug offences, international seminar on customs drug related information exchange in the Black Sea, interim evaluation and recommendations).
Project 3 – Drug demand reduction: Component 6 – Drug Prevention Programme (implementation of drug prevention programme, conducting of ESPAD and General Population Surveys in Moldova); Component 7 – Methodological support of NGOs networks (national training on management aspects of NGO running, evaluation of NGO networking around the Continuum of Care and recommendations, support to NGO regional networking).

REGIONAL: BUMAD 2 (069-568)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2002 (003-016)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2004-31/12/2006
Budget: 2.437.810,82 EUR (100% EC funded)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: No info available

Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

NATIONAL: Combating trafficking in women in the Republic of Belarus (029-979) (= *"BELTRAFFIC 1")*
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2000 (000-530)
Contract implementation period: 06/09/2002-06/12/2005
Budget: 826.166 EUR (100% EC-funded)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: BUMAD 1 (030-612)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2001 (000-559)
Contract implementation period: 01/02/2003-01/05/2005
Budget: 2.000.000 EUR (100% EC funded)
Contractor: UNDP
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

Human Rights, Democratization and Civil Society



Summary:

Assistance in these areas is delivered through a number of different instruments, allowing the European Union (EU) to employ a variety of approaches at central, regional or local level, depending on what is most effective in the given context.

For human rights, the main source of funding comes through the European Instrument for Democracy and Human Rights (EIDHR).

The relatively new Non-State Actors and Local Authorities in Development Programme is aimed at developing the capacities of civil society and local authorities to support all aspects of the participative democracy process at local level, as well as building co-operation between them in the pursuit of this goal.

The country allocation for both EIDHR and NSA-LA were increased following the Council conclusions of January 2011 and reinforcement of the assistance to civil society and human rights protection.

The Council Conclusions of 31.01.11 tasked the European Commission to provide urgent support to those repressed and detained on political grounds and their families, as well as support to civil society. The Commission has been requested to review its assistance to Belarus which is aimed at addressing the needs of the population, in order to further strengthen support to civil society, targeting in particular NGOs and students.

In line with this approach ENPI bilateral assistance for Belarus for the period 2012-2013 was reviewed in order to maximize the support to civil society.

Current Projects:

Title of the project	implementer	Content
Towards a Life-Long Active Society (TOLLAS) **Budget:** € 203 694.75	DVV International (DE)	The contract's purpose is to empower representatives of the elderly generation to play an active role in local decision making and to improve the capacity of state and non-state actors to adequately represent specific needs and interests of seniors. The access to educational services will be broadened. A public debate started and increased capacity of actors is intended.
Community-based volunteer initiatives for civic groups in remote areas in Belarus **Budget:** € 243 813.75	Danish Red Cross (DK)	The contract's purpose is to reduce vulnerability and improved conditions for inclusive, empowering and sustainable development in remote areas of Belarus through strengthening civil society and enhancing cooperation between local authorities and non-state actors. The specific objective is to strengthen the capacity of cooperation between citizens, Belarus Red Cross grass-root organisations and local authorities on fostering volunteering, participatory policy development and service delivery to vulnerable people in remote areas.
Strengthening public participation on environmental decision making and	Arnica (CZ)	The contract's purpose is promotion of chemical safety and raising the NGO capacity (and its tools) that serves as service for local initiatives and local authorities to implement SAICM objectives. This includes to examine

SAICM in Belarus **Budget:** € 160 087.50		public participation in preparation and implementation of local plans for chemicals management; to strengthen the dialogue between decision makers and groups directly affected by specific chemical safety problems; to establish a non-formal platform for cooperation of civil society organizations working on improvement of chemical safety in Belarus;
Territorial Approach for Village Development **Budget:** € 240 317.25	International Foundation for Rural Development (BY)	Improve the quality of life in rural areas by establishing a dialogue between local partners and supporting them in joint resolution of local problems through implementation of economic and social initiatives
Enhancing quality of life of families parenting children with life-threatening conditions through competent outpatient palliative care support in Belarus **Budget:** € 140 441.40	Belarusian Children Hospice (BY)	Develop an effective outpatient model for palliative care including bereavement support for families with incurable children through high quality services provision.
All Children Included. A project to promote the wellbeing and future prospects of Belarusian children growing up in institutions **Budget:** € 162 798.00	International Child Development Initiatives (NL)	Increase the capacity of Belarusian child protection services to deliver high quality care for children without parental care and to strengthen the child rights climate in the country in general.
Rendering community-based services for healthy ageing **Budget:** € 179 742.00	Association of Local Authorities of Lithuania (LT)	Enhance the quality of life of elderly people in Belarus through development of community-based services and promotion of appropriate policies, programmes and legislation for the elderly care.
EU and Belarus: sharing knowledge **Budget:** €140 000.00	Office for Democratic Belarus (BE)	The project objective is to empower government and CSOs experts in Belarus in fields of energy transport and education; promote dialogue and reconciliation among them, and strengthen their participation in decision-making processes both on the national and international levels. The project will establish and develop a platform for communication and expertise exchange between government and independent experts in areas of energy, transport and education.
Capacity Building for LA and NSA cooperation on social inclusion and empowerment of disadvantaged people in Belarus communities **Budget:** € 132 164.00	Minsk City Institute for Education Development (BY)	Build capacity for LA and NSA cooperation in meeting the needs of vulnerable groups and their social inclusion in 2 rural and 9 urban Belarus communities
Developing the capacity of NGOs to	Public Association	Contribute to sustainable development of Belarus and to promote the participatory approach of mental health

mainstream mental health issues in the Republic of Belarus **Budget:** € 138 714.00	"Voice of Heart" (BY)	services users, as one of the most disadvantaged groups of the society, seeking for their empowerment and integration to the society.
Partnerships for Better Energy Use **Budget:** € 150 000.00	New Eurasia Establishment (BY)	Build capacity and expertise of NSA/LAs to introduce energy saving approaches in rural regions in BY, thereby enhancing sustainable development practices, improving the quality of life and contributing to lasting environmental conservation efforts.
State and Civil Society Partnership in Belarus for Improved Child Protection **Budget:** € 119 978.00	The British Council (UK)	Build the capacity of NSAs and LAs for collaboration and dialogue in order to strengthen the protective environment for children in Belarus by jointly developing Policy and Implementation Guidelines for Multi-Agency Collaboration that contribute to the prevention, detection and investigation of child abuse.
Step ahead: Qualification of staff in state-run day-care centres for job-preparation of impaired adult persons **Budget:** € 142 188.00	Caritas Austria (A)	Contributes to the social inclusion of disabled adult persons and their relatives living in Belarus by improving their access to social services
Rural Communities and Local Authorities in Sustainable Rural Development **Budget:** € 150 000,00	Local Foundation "Stolin District Center for Support to Rural Development and Entrepreneurship" (BY)	Overall objective is to adopt a mechanism of development and implementation of sustainable rural development strategies that will enable to upraise the living standards of rural population. Specific objective is to demonstrate the rural development processes implementing in cooperation of rural communities and local authorities (on example of Stolin district).
Leveraging Partnerships for Sustainable Development in Rural Belarus **Budget:** € 143 620,28	New Eurasian Establishment (BY)	Overall objective: Enhance sustainable development of rural regions in Belarus. Specific objective: Leverage partnerships between non-state actors and local authorities to introduce and develop sustainable development practices to meet the socioeconomic needs of rural territories in Belarus.

Justice Reform



Summary:

Apart from a small number of TAIEX events, EC assistance allocations for past and ongoing projects amounted to 1.133 million EUR.

Another 4-million EUR project implemented in, and for, the six Eastern Partnership countries by the Council of Europe started in early 2011 and is open for Belarus. However, Belarusian participation has been rather limited so far, mainly due the current political circumstances in the country.

Assistance in this area is targeted at beneficiary institutions such as the Ministry of Justice, prosecutors' offices, courts and the ministry of the interior (in charge of the penitentiary system).

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: Promoting ex-prisoners integration in Belarus (291-947)
Financing source: Non State Actors 2011: Objective 1 (022-941)
Contract implementation period: 01/09/2012-31/08/2014 (24 months)
Budget: 373.400 € (EC contribution: 280.000 € – 75%; Grant)
Contractor: Hungarian Aid
Beneficiaries: NGOs, local authorities in Gomel, Grodno and Vitebsk provinces of Belarus
Action location: Gomel, Grodno and Vitebsk provinces of Belarus
Content: The project's specific objectives are: (1) To strengthen the capacity and cooperation of non state actors and local authorities in defining and implementing sustainable development strategy focusing on special social and economic issues of vulnerable population in order to provide better and coherent services for disadvantaged groups of the society (focusing on ex-prisoners); (2) To increase the target group's access to better opportunities and to promote their efficient adaptation to labour market demands and integration into the society in general; (3) To improve the skills and knowledge of the non-state actors working with disadvantaged groups through capacity building, networking and creation of effective partnerships.

NATIONAL: Integration of (ex-)offenders into society (297-004)
Financing source: Special Measure: Support to Civil Society in Belarus 2012 (023-453)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2013-31/10/2015 (34 months)
Budget: 333.000 € (EC contribution: 299.700 € – 90%; Contribution Agreement)
Contractor: International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies
Beneficiaries: Red Cross of Belarus, prisoners, ex-prisoners, prison staff
Action location: Mogilyov province of Belarus
Content: The action seeks to meet the following specific objective: strengthened capacities of and cooperation between (ex)-offenders, Belarus Red Cross and relevant state actors on developing a new mechanism for social inclusion of former convicts. By enabling ex-offenders to return safely to the community and advocating for their right to fair and equal access to education, vocational training, employment and public services this action will foster respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms.

REGIONAL: Council of Europe Facility (256-600)
Financing source: Council of Europe Facility 2010 (022-192)
Contract implementation period: 10/12/2010-10/06/2013 (30 months)
Budget: 4.000.000 EUR (Direct Agreement; Joint Management)
Contractor: Council of Europe
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: MFA
Action location: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
Content: The funds are split as follows between the four main components: (1) Supporting electoral standards, especially in pre-electoral periods - €935.900; (2) Enhancing judicial reform - €923.995; (3) Support measures

against serious forms of cybercrime - €724.040; (4) Good governance and the fight against corruption - €1.126.365. CoE on 16 June 2011: "A representative of Belarus (Mr Alexei Samosuev, counsellor on relations with the EU, Embassy of Belarus to Belgium) did attend the Kick-Off Steering Committee Meeting. We are not aware of any concrete activities in Belarus, though." See also: http://www.coe.int/t/dgap/eap-facility/

PAST PROJECTS

NATIONAL: Promotion of a wider application of international human rights standards in the administration of justice in Belarus (113-323)

Financing source: Promotion of a wider application of international human rights standards in the administration of justice in Belarus (DDH Human Rights and Democracy 2005, 017-740)

Contract implementation period: 10/04/2007-30/09/2009 (30 months)

Budget: 625.966,06 EUR (Grant) (EC contribution: 553.396,06 EUR – 88,41%)

Contractor: UNDP

Beneficiaries: Ministry of Justice, Constitutional Court, Supreme Court, General Prosecutor’s Office, National Bar Association

Action location: Minsk

Content: The project helped: (a) produce sufficient amount of reference materials, including compilations of international human rights standards and case-law, and ensure their broad availability; (b) expose the justice sector professionals to the best international practices by arranging ad hoc discussion series (conferences and seminars) with the participation of foreign experts, and study visits abroad for the national experts; (c) pay more attention to international human rights standards in the on-going programmes of training/re-training of justice sector professionals; and (d) promote better understanding of the role and functions of the judiciary in a democratic society by the general public.

Migration & Asylum



Summary:

Over the past ten years, projects in the sphere of migration and asylum have been the EU's second biggest area of assistance as regards justice and home affaires. Most of the projects funded were implemented by UNHCR through regional initiatives, usually covering Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine. Due to the fact that UNHCR is the main recipient of EU funds in this sector, assistance focuses mainly on strengthening asylum seekers' and refugees' rights.

In total the EU has contributed about 17.2 million euro on active and past regional projects and 2.7 million euro on national projects since 2001. While the vast majority of EU assistance to Belarus in general is funded under the European Neighbourhood Policy Instrument (ENPI), support in this area is mainly financed under the Development Cooperation Instrument (DCI).

Until now, the procurement methods applied by the EC were global calls for proposals launched by EC headquarters in Brussels and direct agreements with UNHCR.

In Belarus, the main beneficiary institutions of EU assistance are the Ministries of Interior and Foreign Affairs as well as the State Border Committee and NGOs.

CURRENT PROJECTS

Budgetary shares in regional ongoing projects for Belarusian authorities (EC contributions only): 311.890,52 €

Accumulated budgets of ongoing regional projects for Belarusian authorities where Belarus' share is not identifiable (EC contributions only): 7.110.324 €

REGIONAL: Local integration of refugees in the Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine, Phase 2 (279-884)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2010 "Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum AAP 2010 part 2 - Call for proposals 2009-2010" (022-214), Call for Proposals 128764 / lot 2 / application 66
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2012-31/12/2013
Budget: 1.402.362 EUR (EC contribution: 1.110.804 EUR – 79,01%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: refugees, 2 language training schools in Gomel and Vitebsk Regions, Regional Committees on Labour, Employment ands Social Protection of Minsk, Mogilyov, Grodno and Brest Regions, students of Belarusian State University
Action location: Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
Content: This project follows up on activities launched under the "Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine – 1st Phase project" (CRIS contract no. 153-174).
In Belarus the project's main elements are: (1) The Regional Committees on Labour, Employment and Social Protection (RCLESP) of Minsk, Mogilyov, Grodno and Brest Regions are strengthened through awareness raising and training activities; the project will provide employment-related counselling and assistance to 200 refugees; (2) start-up assistance made available in the framework of established partnerships with the RCLESPs to support entrepreneurship and business development targeting 5 refugees; (3) some 200 persons benefit from social counselling and integration related assistance, namely 20 persons receive vocational training, 100 refugee children and adolescents benefit from educational assistance (catch-up classes on secondary school subjects and Russian language, professional orientation and training, developmental assistance, etc.); 80 persons are counselled on employment, housing, social protection and entrepreneurship issues; (4) a secondary employment scheme, established in the first phase of the project, targeting 20 refugee adolescents in Minsk; (5) housing repair programme comprising integration grants for settling in rural areas, assistance in

refurbishing/construction of individual apartments targeting 5 refugee families (or 20 individuals); (6) two country seminars for refugees on employment and social protection issues conducted by UNHCR and Ministry of Labour and Social Protection; each training targeting 30 persons/beneficiaries representing the government and non-government social services providers; (7) capacity of two language training institutions in Gomel and Vitebsk Regions strengthened to conduct trainings for 25-30 refugees; (8) public awareness / tolerance building campaign conducted through 4 regional seminars for executive authorities and city councils, an outdoor information school for refugee adolescents, a simulation inter-active game for young people ("Run on the way") and a conference at the Belarusian State University on tolerance issues targeting 2000 persons; (9) World Refugee Day activities including a competition among secondary school children on refugee issues; thematic radio broadcasts and community events for refugees organise throughout the country targeting 60% of the population.

REGIONAL: Migration EU Expertise II (MIEUX II): Providing short-term capacity building to third countries in all areas of migration management (280-403)

Financing source: DCI MIGR 2011 "Migration EU Expertise II (MIEUX II): Providing short-term capacity building to third countries in all areas of migration management" (023-312)
Contract implementation period: 24/12/2011-23/12/2014
Budget: 4.499.995 EUR (100% EC-funded)
Contractor: ICMPD
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: State Border Committee, Ministry of the Interior
Action location: Global
Content: This initiative aims to provide short-term expertise to Third Countries, such as the Republic of Belarus, to support also your country in effectively addressing questions related to all areas of migration management, including irregular migration, asylum & refugees and legal migration. Assistance will be granted through specialists from EU national administrations upon request from your government. Compared to other EC assistance projects, the added value of this instrument is to provide experts within a relatively short period of time (approximately 6 weeks after a formal request). MIEUX is implemented by the international governmental organisation ICMPD (International Centre for Migration Policy Development) under the guidance of a Project Steering Group composed of representatives of the EC, EEAS (European External Action Service) and ICMPD.

REGIONAL: Support to UNHCR activities in Eastern Europe in the context of Regional Protection Programmes – Phase II (272-415)

Financing source: DCI MIGR 2010 "Thematic Programme for Migration and Asylum AAP 2010 part 2 - Action Fiche 5 RPP" (022-219)
Contract implementation period: 01/10/2011-30/09/2013
Budget: 1.500.000 EUR (Direct Agreement; Joint Management; 100% EC-funded)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: State Border Committee, Ministry of the Interior, NGO Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers, Belarusian Red Cross, refugees, judges, prosecutors
Action location: Republic of Belarus, the Republic of Moldova and Ukraine
Content: This project follows up on activities launched under the "Support to UNHCR activities in Great Lakes region and in Eastern Europe in the context of Regional Protection Programmes" project (CRIS contract no. 165-064).
The project's main elements are: (1) Increased awareness and cooperation among governments and NGOs; (2) humanitarian and medical needs of asylum seekers addressed; (3) enhanced protection-sensitive entry mechanisms at the border through increased capacity and awareness of government agencies and NGOs; (4) increased capacity of NGOs as regards protection monitoring and legal counselling; (5) improved reception conditions and temporary accommodation centres for asylum seekers; (6) provision of quality interpretation to NGOs and government counterparts in a timely manner; (7) vulnerable refugees are proactively identified and resettled; (8) 100 persons undergo language training and 220 persons vocational training; (9) provision of self-reliance grants.

REGIONAL: Creating an Observatory of Migration East of Europe – CARIM East (229-847)

Financing source: DCI MIGR 2009 "Annual Action Programme for the Thematic Programme on Cooperation with third in the Area of Migration and Asylum for 2009" (021-103), Call for Proposals 128-764 / lot 2 / application 62
Contract implementation period: 01/04/2011-31/03/2013
Budget: 2.274.082 EUR (EC contribution: 1.819.265 EUR – 80%)
Contractor: European University Institute
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: Academy of Science, MoI, MFA, journalists, NGOs
Action location: All over the EaP region
Content: In 2012, two conferences: The first conference is aimed to present the outcomes of the research programme "Impact of labour migration on the countries of origin". It will be held in Kiev on 26-27 April. The second one, presenting outcomes of the research programme "Irregular migration, return and reintegration", will be held in Tbilisi in the last week of October 2012. EUI will organise a summer school on migration for which Belarusian nationals can apply on 26 June-7 July in Florence. EUI will work with Belarusian network members on two big publications: the Country Report - Belarus (a publication that will seek to complete and nuance the currently developed Migration Profiles), to be issued by August 2012, and the Regional Report (a problem-oriented publication focusing on migration issues which are specific for the region) to be issued by December 2012. EUI will also work with them to support their efforts to publish in Western journals, more specifically in the International Migration and Journal of Ethnic and Migration Studies. The first articles should be completed by 30 November 2012. Also in 2012, EUI will work on policy briefs for policy makers. EUI will offer specialised training for academics to help them produce well-structured policy-briefs. EUI will present relevant results of the project to the policy-makers from Belarus on different occasions: at panel meetings of the Eastern Partnership in April 2012 and October 2012 (dates tbc by the COM) as well as during the international workshop on contributions of the Eastern Partners to the Stockholm Programme on 28 February 2012. Trainings for policy makers and for NGOs/journalists will be held early in 2013, when all EUI's research programmes are either completed or at a very advanced stage. http://www.carim-east.eu

REGIONAL: Legal and Social Protection of Asylum Seeking and Refugee Children in Ukraine, Belarus, and Moldova (229-710)

Financing source: DCI MIGR 2009 "Annual Action Programme for the Thematic Programme on Cooperation with third in the Area of Migration and Asylum for 2009" (021-103), Call for Proposals 128-764 / lot 2 / application 51
Contract implementation period: 01/02/2011-01/02/2013
Budget: 988.830 EUR (EC contribution: 791.064 EUR – 80%)
Contractor: Danish Refugee Council
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: Red Cross Society, Evrika, and the Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers
Action location:, Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine
Content: Activities focus on Ukraine. Belarus is involved in actions under the following sections: *A. Legal Component: Asylum seeking and refugee children have improved access to a protective system which upholds international standards*
Activity A1.1: A DRC Child Protection and Asylum Expert will support GAA and NGOs in Ukraine, Moldova and Belarus to develop protective legal systems for asylum seeking and refugee children; Activity A1.2: National and local training of duty bearers on the implementation of laws and procedures relating to asylum seeking and refugee children; Activity A1.6: Strengthening of mechanisms to prevent and respond to smuggling and trafficking; Activity A1.9:Review and Phase-out Workshop; Activity A3.1: Legal and social welfare systems analyses conducted in Moldova and Belarus.
B. Social Component: The capacity of civil society to address children's social assistance needs will be increased
Activity B1.6: Regional civil society capacity development
D. Outreach Component: Society is further sensitized to the needs of asylum seeking and refugee children, and asylum seeking and refugee children are aware of their rights and obligations within Ukraine
Activity D1.2: Mobilisation of asylum seeking and refugee youth through Refugee Youth Councils; Activity D1.3: Dissemination of school material in support of the Tolerance Campaign conducted by GAA, MFYS and Ministry of Education Materials will also be disseminated for targeted school distributions in schools in Moldova and Belarus; Activity D1.4: Printing and dissemination of informational pamphlets to promote the rights and obligations of asylum seeking and refugee children in Ukraine, Belarus and Moldova.

PAST PROJECTS

Accumulated budgets of the past national projects for Belarusian authorities (EC contributions only): 2.106.750,28 EUR

Accumulated budgets of past regional projects for Belarusian authorities where Belarus' share is not identifiable (EC contributions only): 10.603.580,88 EUR

REGIONAL: Local Integration of Refugees in Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine – 1st Phase (153-174)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2008 "Annual Working Programme 2008" (020-206), Call for Proposals 126-364 / lot 2 / application 37
Contract implementation period: 01/03/2009-31/12/2011
Budget: 2.585.932 EUR (EC contribution: 2.000.000 EUR – 77,34%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: Department on Citizenship and Migration under the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Labour and Social Protection and its regional departments on Labour, Employment and Social Assistance, Ministry of Education and educational institutions, refugee community based organisations and local NGOs
Action location: Belarus: throughout the country
Content: *Regional activities*: capacity building support to the three Governments to improve their capacities to implement current and future refugee-related activities, supporting the three Governments to establish country advisory structures, start developing national integration policies; establishing comprehensive language training courses; conducting PA/tolerance building activities, etc. *In Belarus*: establishing integration referral consultancy services on employment related issues; enhancing the capacity of state Social Centres to assist refugees on social issues; developing/implementing vocational skills training, employment, housing and language training programmes for refugees.

NATIONAL: Strengthening Protection Capacity in Belarus – Phase 2 (153-171)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2008 "Annual Working Programme 2008" (020-206), Call for Proposals 126-364 / lot 2 / application 36
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2009-31/12/2011
Budget: 888.431 EUR (EC contribution: 710.745 EUR – 80,00%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: Ministry of the Interior, State Border Committee, Belarusian Red Cross, Belarusian Movement of Medical Workers, International Public Association for Scientific Research, Information and Educational Programmes "Evolutio"
Action location: throughout the country
Content: The programme has four main aspects: (1) consolidating and developing the existing UNHCR-IOM-NGO protection monitoring in all strategic entry and exit points of the country with a special emphasis on the transparent border with Russia, including monitoring of MIA's detention facilities to ensure access to territory and asylum; (2) providing the necessary training and technical assistance to the MIA and the SBC to ensure quality of asylum procedures; (3) providing assistance for the voluntary return of migrants to facilitate sustainable durable solutions; (4) raising awareness on refugee issues to ensure increased protection and understanding of the public at large of the relevance of refugee protection and the difference between economic migrants and refugees.

REGIONAL: Support to UNHCR activities in Great Lakes region and in Eastern Europe in the context of Regional Protection Programmes (165-064)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2008 "Migration and Asylum 2008: Support to UNHCR activities in Great Lakes region and in Eastern Europe in the Context of Regional Protection Programmes." (019-999)
Contract implementation period: 01/04/2009-30/09/2011
Budget: 2.998.994,80 EUR (Direct Agreement; Joint Management; 100% EC-funded)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: border guards, Ministry of the Interior, 2 NGOs
Action location: Minsk and Belarusian border regions

Content: Increasing UNHCR staff capacity and consolidating and developing the existing protection monitoring framework in all strategic entry and exit points of Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine, including monitoring of detention facilities.

REGIONAL: Monitoring safe and dignified return and conditions of detention. Protecting the Rights of Asylum Seekers, Refugees and IDPs in Belarus, Moldova, the Russian Federation and Ukraine (153-324)
Financing source: DCI MIGR 2008 (020-206)
Contract implementation period: 10/02/2009-10/02/2011
Budget: 809.284,98 EUR (EC contribution: 647.381,98 EUR – 79,99%)
Contractor: European Council on Refugees and Exiles AISBL
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: border guards, asylum seekers, refugees and IDPs
Action location: Minsk and Belarusian border regions
Content: In Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine the project will concentrate on land borders where we expect that the proportion of asylum seekers who access the status determination procedure will increase as a result of the NGO monitoring activities and the project work with border guards. The Belarusian Movement for Medical Workers will provide recent information on the access to the territory of Belarus and will be in contact with the border guards.

NATIONAL: Enhancing Asylum Conditions and International Protection in the Republic of Belarus (AENEAS 2) (130-518)
Financing source: AENEAS 2006 (018-381)
Contract implementation period: 20/12/2007-31/05/2010
Budget: 595.267,81 EUR (EC contribution: 470.267,81 EUR – 79,00%)
Contractor: Republic of Belarus (Military Academy of the Republic of Belarus)
Beneficiaries: Border guards, Ministry of the Interior
Action location: Border Troops Faculty of the Military Academy; Minsk Air Border Unit; Brest Border Unit; Grodno Border Unit; Pinsk Border Unit; Gomel Border Unit.
Content: (1) Cooperation between the government and educational institutions dealing with migration and refugee issues will be promoted and strengthened; (2) Government and educational institutions will have more advanced skills to deal with asylum seekers and refugees; they will become aware of the difference between economic /irregular migrants and asylum seekers; (3) Targeted technical assistance and training to border , migration and asylum authorities will enhance their independence of external support; relevant authorities will become better equipped to deal with migrants, refugees and asylum seekers; (4) Representatives of government and educational institutions, students and public at large will become more receptive to the protection and solution needs of refugees; (5) Persons in need of international protection will have improved access to the territory of Belarus and to the asylum procedures.

REGIONAL: Strengthening Migration Management in the Republics of Belarus and Moldova - MIGRABEL / MIGRAMOL (104-300)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2004 (016-767)
Contract implementation period: 01/06/2006-31/07/2009
Budget: 1.546.625,55 EUR (EC contribution: 1.396.625,55 EUR – 90,3%)
Contractor: IOM
Beneficiaries: Ministries of the Interior and Foreign Affairs as well as the State Border Committee
Action location: All over Belarus, abroad (study tours)
Content: In Belarus: To improve machine readable travel documents and visa stickers in line with international standards (biometric verifier)

NATIONAL: Strengthening Protection Capacity in Belarus (120-221)
Financing source: AENEAS 2005 (017-809)
Contract implementation period: 16/12/2006-16/04/2009
Budget: 704.663,17 EUR (EC contribution: 560.737,47 EUR – 79,58%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available

Content: No info available

REGIONAL: The Cross-Border Cooperation / Söderköping Process (103-489)
Financing source: AENEAS 2004 (016-944)
Contract implementation period: 01/03/2006-30/06/2009
Budget: 1.510.988,06 EUR (EC contribution: 1.184.013,30 EUR – 78,36%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: The Cross-Border Cooperation / Söderköping Process (117-451)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2004 (016-767)
Contract implementation period: 01/03/2006-30/06/2009
Budget: 1.096.303,25 EUR (EC contribution: 982.003,25 EUR – 89,57%)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: The protection of refugees, asylum seekers and forced migrants (103-619)
Financing source: AENEAS 2004 (016-944)
Contract implementation period: 10/12/2005-10/02/2009
Budget: 660.221 EUR (EC contribution: 484.595 EUR – 73,40%)
Contractor: European Council on Refugees and Exiles AISBL
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: Minsk and Belarusian border regions.

NATIONAL: Strengthening the National Asylum System in the Republic of Belarus (069-573)
Financing source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2002 (003-016)
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2005-31/12/2006
Budget: 365.000 EUR (100% EC-funded)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: The Cross-Border Cooperation Process (Söderköping process) – Söderköping I (No info on CRIS no. available)
Financing source:
Contract implementation period: -28/02/2006
Budget: 762.488 EUR (EC contribution: No info available)
Contractor: Swedish Migration Board
Beneficiaries: No info available
Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

REGIONAL: The Cross-Border Cooperation Process (Söderköping process) – Secretariat (No info on CRIS no. available)
Financing source:
Contract implementation period: -03/05/2004
Budget: 147.479 EUR (EC contribution: No info available)
Contractor: UNHCR
Beneficiaries: No info available

Action location: No info available
Content: No info available

Mines Destruction



Summary:

The EU's support to the destruction of Belarus' stockpiles of PFM-1 series anti-personnel landmines is directly linked to the government's ratification of the "Convention on the Prohibition of the Use, Stockpiling, Production and Transfer of Anti-Personnel Mines and on their Destruction" on 1 March 2004, which committed the country to destroy its anti-personnel landmines stockpiles within four years after ratification. In its Article-7-report of April 2008, the Belarusian government declared a stockpile of 3,378,014 anti-personnel mines (including a total of 3,366,500 PFM-1 series mines).

The PFM-1 mines were designed to be disbursed by different types of delivery systems (canisters, rockets, cluster bombs launched by helicopters, etc.). The shelf life of the PFM-1 series ammunition has been originally determined as ten years. This deadline has now expired.

During the explosion of PFM-1 mines, different toxic chemicals are released into the environment. This represents a major challenge during the destruction process. The basic aim of this assistance project is to treat the liquids and gaseous waste, developing during the destruction, in an environmentally friendly and safe manner. The destruction process will produce significant amounts of pure salt (NaCl).

This is a one-shot intervention, which will have no follow-up after finalisation of activities under this contract.

CURRENT PROJECT

NATIONAL: Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus (254-582)
Financing source: Destruction of PFM-1 series ammunition in Belarus – East Regional AP 2007 (019-151)
Contract implementation period: 22/01/2011-22/05/2013 (28 months)
Budget: 3.900.000 EUR (Service Contract)
Contractor: Explosivos Alaveses SA
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Defence and MFA
Action location: Military Base in Rechitsa (40 km west of Gomel)
Content: The aim of the contract is to destroy approx. 3.400.000 anti-personnel land mines in Belarus.

Culture



Summary:
Culture is a new and growing field of cooperation in EU external activities. The most recent development is the launch of the **Eastern Partnership Culture Programme** (€12 million). It consists of two components: a Kyiv-based Regional Capacity Building Unit to provide support to Ministries of Culture and other actors in the field and a grants' scheme to support individual projects. The Regional Capacity Building Unit started its operation in September 2011 with research visits to EaP countries to study their cultural policies. Under the grants scheme, a total of 15 regional projects are selected, including one project with a Belarusian applicant. Project activities start across the EaP region in early 2012. The project coordinated by the Belarusian applicant will work to establish closer cooperation among photographers in the EaP region.

Four regional projects involving Belarus are implemented under **EU Culture Programme** (which is an intra-EU programme but in 2009-2010 had windows for international cooperation with Belarus). They have a total budget of around €0.65 million and cover such areas as puppet theatre performances, live video art and exchanges of performers between EU and Belarus.

Projects in the field of culture are also implemented in the framework of **CBC programmes**, especially Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus. They mostly deal with tourism-related cultural and historical heritage.

INITIATIVES

Eastern Partnership: Thematic platform on Contacts between people in the field of culture aims:

* To launch a specific EaP Culture Programme that will strengthen the capacity of cultural operators in the region and enhance the role of culture as a force for reform, promotion of inter-communal tolerance and social cohesion. This programme will be complemented by opportunities to engage in transnational cultural cooperation in the whole ENP region through a dedicated window under the EC Culture Programme as of 2011.
* To support the Council of Europe's Kyiv Initiative on Cultural Heritage.

A partnership on culture is planned to be established within the framework of Northern Dimension (http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/north_dim/index_en.htm)

UNDER PREPARATION

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CURRENT PROJECTS

REGIONAL: **Eastern Partnership Culture Programme**
Project title: SAY CHEESE: Eastern Partnership Family Album. Capacity building, networking and promotion of thematic Eastern Partnership photography (257-061)
Lead partner: Local Foundation for Promotion of International Dialogue and Cooperation "Interakcia" (BY)
Partners: BY, AM, GE, MD, UA
Beneficiaries: Association of photographers, professional and amateur photographers, private businesses.
Action location: Armenia, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
Total budget: € 622,700 (EU contribution: 496,350)
Duration: 30 months (2012-2014)

Content: Creation of conditions for the professional development of thematic EaP photography (conferences, seminars, trainings, web-platforms, business fairs), development of the common virtual photo school, Cultural photo-event "Eastern Partnership Family Album" (contests, exchange visits, albums publishing, exhibitions).

REGIONAL: Eastern Partnership Culture Programme: Regional Monitoring and Capacity Building Unit (255-219)
Financing source: ENPI Regional Action Programmes 2009 and 2010
Contract implementation period: 01/04/2011 – 01/04/ 2015
Budget: 2,998,800 EUR
Contractor: GIZ
Beneficiaries: Public institutions and other cultural actors in EaP countries
Action location: Eastern partnership: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
Content: The RMCB Unit will serve mainly three functions: Capacity building to public institutions and other cultural sector actors of the Eastern Partnership countries; offer technical support to all the grant beneficiaries and ensure monitoring of the EU-funded projects; link the programme with wider networking activities.
Website: www.euroeastculture.eu

REGIONAL: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Project title: AGORA 2.0 - Heritage Tourism for increased BSR Identity
Lead partner: University of Greifswald, Institute of Geography and Geology (DE)
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Belarusian Association Country Escape 115.000,00
Total budget: €2.834.050,00
Duration: 17. 09. 2009 - 16. 12. 2012
Content: Numerous projects and activities in the past demonstrated the impressive variety of most attractive natural and cultural assets of the BSR. Unfortunately the results of the projects where often only poorly visible for a broader public. The project AGORA 2.0 focuses on fostering the common identity of the Baltic Sea Region by highlighting, developing and marketing natural and cultural heritage as business environment and outstanding strength of the region.

REGIONAL: Poland/Ukraine/Belarus
Project title: Improvement of cross-border region attractiveness through the introduction of enthno-cultural resources into the tourist activities (a trip to the ethnic fairytale)
Contractor: Yanka Kupala State University in Grodno
Budget: €1,257,639 (total budget) 676,986 (budget for Belarus)

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Stimulation of cross-border tourism in Lithuania and Belarus by improving the accessibility and attractivenss cultural-historical heritage in Rokiskis and Postavy regions
Contractor**:** Rokiskis Munuicipality Administration, LT (BY partner: Postavy District Executive Committee)
Budget: €596,652 (total budget)

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** The use of historic farmsteads and their adaptation to contemporary cultural needs
Contractor**:** Direction of Trakai Historical National Park (BY partner: Smorgon District Executive Committee)
Budget: €517,742 (total budget)

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Cultural heritage preservation and promotion in Rezekne and Braslav region
Contractor: Rezekna City Council, LV (BY partner: Culture Department of Braslav Distrcit Executive Committee; Braslav Regional Museum Association)
Budget: €1,289,783.90 (total budget)

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Establishment of socio-cultural network in Zarasai-Daugavpils-Braslaw cross-border region by attracting the youth and including the local community

Contractor**:** Centre of Culture of Zarasai Municipality, LT (BY partners: Culture Department of Braslav District Executive Committee
Budget: €253,980 (total budget)

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Friendly dialogue of Druskininkai and Grodno creative communities over cultural diversity
Contractor**:** Druskininkai Culture Center, LT (BY partners: Grodno City Executive Committee)
Budget**:** €154,541.70

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Daugavpils and Vitebsk: Cultural Cooperation and Development
Contractor**:** Latvian Center of Culture, LV (BY partner: State Institution Centre of Culture Vitebsk)
Budget**:** €275,852.70

REGIONAL: EU Culture Programme
Project title**:** Puppet Nomad Academy
Contractor: Slovenian Mini Theater
Partners: Belarusian Puppet Theater and Armenian Union of Puppeteers)..
Budget: €137,670
Content: Inspired by "the nomads of beauty" from the period of European avant-garde, this project is conceived as some kind of puppet workshops travelling from Armenia, across Belarus, Czech republic, Croatia, Slovenia, and up to Belgium.

REGIONAL: EU Culture Programme
Project title**:** Live Performers Meeting
Contractor: Flyer Communication SRL, IT
Partners: Association Les Reseaux De La Creation, FR; Jelenlet Kulturalis Kozhasznu Egyesulet, HU; Belarusian partners: Art Gallery Podzemka, Art gallery Ў
Budget: €170,000
Content: Live video art performers' meeting X in Minsk in September 2011

REGIONAL: EU Culture Programme
Project title**:** Show Europe – Show Belarus: Enabling Artistic Exchanges between Estonia, Sweden, Germany, Lithuania, Portugal and Belarus
Contractor: Valgeneve UUS TEE, EE
Partners: SE, LT, DE, PT; Belarusian partners: Liberal Club
Budget: €190,295
Content: Exchange of performers between Belarus and the EU

REGIONAL: EU Culture Programme
Project title**:** Mirrors of Europe
Contractor: Project Forum, SK
Partners: AT, UK, HU, MD, UA; Belarusian partners: Belarusian PEN Center
Budget: €162,000
Content: It is a literary project which enables writers to spend three weeks in a selected country, in order to write an essay on what Europe is and means. A collection of the essays will be published in English in 2012.

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: Latvia/Lithuania/Belarus
Project title**:** Art without borders - promotion of cross-border cultural industry through the art of Marc Chagall and Mark Rothko
Budget**:** €75,195

Content: To facilitation of the socio-economic development on the cross-border territory by utilizing the potential of cultural industry, in particular, by establishing sustainable cooperation model for development of cross-border art; improving cultural infrastructure in the cross-border region through necessary investments in cultural objects; and promoting cross-border cultural heritage through publicity and marketing campaign of art events in Latvia and Belarus.

Education and Youth



Summary:

Two major EU programmes in the field of higher education are Tempus and Erasmus Mundus.

Tempus consists of regional projects bringing together EU and partner country universities to improve curricular and governance in universities, enhance links between higher education and industry, and reform higher education policy. Around 15 Belarusian universities and institutions are now involved in such projects. Tempus also supports a local National Tempus Office which provides support to project implementation and a local group of Higher Education Reform Experts who work to bring Belarus closer to the Bologna Process.

Erasmus Mundus is a student and university staff mobility programme which provides opportunities for both universities and individuals. Universities from EU and partner countries form partnerships which organize mobility for all categories of students and university staff. Belarus is involved in four such partnerships (they include Belarusian State University, Brest State University, Brest State Technical University, Grodno State University, Belarusian State Economic University and Belarusian National Technical University). Individuals must have at least Bachelor's degree to be able to apply on their own for Erasmus Mundus Master Courses or Doctoral Programmes.

EU provides financial support for the operation of the **European Humanities University**, the Belarusian university in exile in Vilnius.

Since 2009 Belarus can participate in international partnership projects of **intra-EU programmes** such as Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig, Leonardo, Jean Monnet and Transversal Programme. However, these opportunities remain largely unused as they imply partnership links with counterparts in the EU, something which is still difficult to establish for Belarusian organizations.

Upcoming developments in the field include most importantly the launch of **Eastern Partnership Youth Programme** in 2012 and the extension of **eTwinning programme** (online community of secondary schools) to Belarus in 2012.

In early 2013, the EU will launch a 2-MEUR assistance project to enable participants to upgrade their proficiency with profound lessons about the EU, and by facilitating personal and professional contacts and foster long-term networking. This project will be coordinated by the Goethe-Institut e.V, branch office in Minsk.

Two actions – **EU Language Courses for Young Belarusians** and **Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts** – are prepared in 2012 to promote EU-Belarus contacts between people.

INITIATIVES

Eastern Partnership: Thematic platform on Contacts between people in the field of education (Platform 4) aims:

To significantly increase funding for the Erasmus Mundus and TEMPUS programmes, thereby increasing student and academic exchanges and promoting higher education reform.

To support partners working towards reforms in line with the Bologna Process and integration into the emerging European Research and Higher Education Area.

To encourage partners to take advantage of the opportunities for teaching, research and conference grants in the field of European integration studies available through the Jean Monnet Programme.

To open a window to complement the Youth in Action Programme in the six partner countries. This would promote youth mobility and exchanges to enhance intercultural dialogue and mutual understanding. It would also support the role of youth NGOs and other actors to strengthen civil society in the partner countries.

UNDER PREPARATION

Calls for Proposals under Tempus and Erasmus Mundus are announced annually, normally they are published in mid-autumn with the deadlines in early February the following year**.**
Additional information:
Tempus (http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/tempus/programme/about_tempus_en.php);
Erasmus Mundus (http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/erasmus_mundus/index_en.php)

Lifelong Learning Programme Call for Proposals. Belarus can participate in partnerships under different actions of the programme such as Comenius, Erasmus, Grundtvig, Leonardo, Jean Monnet and Transversal Programme. Deadlines vary but mostly in the end of February and March.
Additional information: Lifelong Learning Programme (http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/llp/index_en.php).

Eastern Partnership Youth Programme. Commission financing decision is taken in November 2011. A total budget of EUR 5.5 million will be divided into two parts: a Regional Capacity Building Unit (3 million) and a contribution to the Youth in Action Eastern Partnership Window (2.5 million). The Regional Unit will be operational from September 2012. The Eastern Partnership Window in Youth in Action is already operational. Additional information: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/youth/index_en.php and http://www.salto-youth.net/rc/eeca/easternwindow/.

eTwinning (online community of schools), part of Lifelong Learning Programme (Comenius), will be partially extended to Eastern Partnership countries in 2012.
More info: http://www.etwinning.net/en/pub/index.htm#

Mobility Scheme for Targeted People-to-People Contacts (in the fields of Education, Culture and Research) (AAP2012). Indicative budget: 5,000,000 EUR.

Open Europe Scholarship Scheme – Part II with indicative budget of 8,000,000 EUR.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: EU Language Courses for Young Belarusians
Financing source: ENPI
Contract implementation period: 01/12/2012 - 01/12/2014
Budget: 2,000,000 EUR
Contractor: Goethe-Institut e.V.
Beneficiaries: Young Belarusians
Action location: Belarus, France, Germany, Poland, UK
Content: intensive language training to enable participants to upgrade their proficiency with profound lessons about the EU, and by facilitating personal and professional contacts and foster long-term networking.

NATIONAL: Open Europe Scholarship Scheme
Financing source: ENPI
Contract implementation period: 22/07/2011 - 21/07/2016
Budget: 3,999,981 EUR
Contractor: Nordic Council of Ministers Secretariat

Beneficiaries: Young Belarusians
Action location: EU
Content: To provide young Belarusians the possibility to acquire Bachelor and Masters degrees at recognized European Universities.
Web: www.oess.eu

NATIONAL: Roots and Treetops: a language-and-more project for intensified European integration
Financing source: Special Measure: EU Language Courses for Young Belarusians
Contract implementation period: tbd (24 months)
Budget: EUR 2,000,000
Contractor: Goethe-Institut e.V.
Beneficiaries: Young Belarusians
Action location: EU
Content: The overall objective of this project is to open participants' minds towards the EU, especially its values related to openness, tolerance and democratic practices. The Belarusian participants will be sensitized regarding citizens' activism in EU countries and helped in finding models or techniques suitable for (adapted) replication in their own surroundings.

TEMPUS

NATIONAL: National Tempus Office
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus
Contract implementation period: 2011-2013
Budget: 100,331.76 EUR
Contractor: Mr. Nikolay Listopad (Head of the Central Informational and Analytical Centre of the Ministry of Education)
Beneficiaries: National Tempus Office
Action location: Belarus
Content: National Tempus Office works to promote Tempus programme in Belarus, monitor Current projects, and support Belarus' accession to the Bologna process.
Web: http://tempus.unibel.by/

REGIONAL: E-Learning-Weiterbildungsnetzwerk im Tourismus (Belarus, Georgien und Ukraine) – WeNeT
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Second Call for Proposals 2009
Contract implementation period: 2010-2013
Budget: EU grant: 1,276,981 EUR
Contractor: Universitaet Paderborn
Beneficiaries: GE (6), UA (11), BY (6)
EU countries involved: AT, DE, IT, SK
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Georgia
Web: http://wenet.tnu.crimea.edu/

REGIONAL: Implementing tools and policies for quality work at institutional level
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Second Call for Proposals 2009
Contract implementation period: 2010-2013
Budget: EU grant: 1,187,380 EUR
Contractor: Royal Institute of Technology
Beneficiaries: BY (4), UA (4), UZ (4)
EU countries involved: EE, IT, ES, SE
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Uzbekistan
Web: http://www.uniqtool.org/index.php

REGIONAL: Innovation cross-universities network for development of partnership with enterprises

Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Second Call for Proposals 2009
Contract implementation period: 2010-2013
Budget: EU grant: 1,219,022 EUR
Contractor: Royal Institute of Technology
Beneficiaries: AZ (2), BY (2), RU (4), UA 2)
EU countries involved: PL, SE, UK
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Russia, Azerbaijan

REGIONAL: Vernetzte und gestufte Aus- und Weiterbilding in Bildungsmanagement
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Second Call for Proposals 2009
Contract implementation period: 2010-2013
Budget: EU grant: 1,259,525 EUR
Contractor: Stiftung Universitaet Hildesheim
Beneficiaries: BY (2), RU (3), UA (2)
EU countries involved: AT, DE, PL
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Russia
Web: http://www.tempus.novsu.ru/)

REGIONAL: Reform der Hochschulausbildung in der Biotechnologie: Entwicklung und Modernisierung der BSc/MSc-Lehrangebote
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Third Call for Proposals 2010
Contract implementation period: 2011-2014
Budget: EU grant: 1,248,893.17 EUR
Contractor: D.Mendeleyev University of Chemical Technology of Russia
Beneficiaries: BY (2), RU (8)
EU countries involved: CZ, DE, LT
Action location: Belarus, Russia
Web: http://rehaut-project.org/

REGIONAL: Environmental Governance for Environmental Curricula
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Third Call for Proposals 2010
Contract implementation period: 2011-2014
Budget: EU grant: 1,138,322.93 EUR
Contractor: Univerzita Komenskeho v Bratislave
Beneficiaries: BY (5), RU (3), UA (3)
EU countries involved: AT, ES, HU, NL, PL, SK
Action location: Belarus, Russia, Ukraine
Web: http://iseu.by/index.jsp?resID=117067&lang=en

NATIONAL: Teacher Education and Training in Tourism in Belarus
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Fourth Call for Proposals 2011
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: EU grant**:** 990,426 EUR
Contractor: Universität Paderborn
Beneficiaries: BY (14)
EU countries involved: CZ, DE, IT, SK
Action location: Belarus
Web: http://www.grsu.by/en/world/proekt/jph/

REGIONAL: Internationalization in Central Asia and the Eastern Neighbouring Area
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Fourth Call for Proposals 2011
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: EU grant: 825,618.34 EUR
Contractor: UNIVERSITY OF SEVILLE
Beneficiaries: BY (3), GE(3), TJ(3)

EU countries involved: BE, ES, NL, UK
Action location: Belarus, Georgia, Tajikistan

REGIONAL: Establishing Modern Master-level Studies in Industrial Ecology
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Tempus, Fourth Call for Proposals 2011
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: EU grant: 1,010,907.26 EUR
Contractor: Kungliga Tekniska Högskolan
Beneficiaries: AZ(3), BY(4), KZ(4), UA(3)
EU countries involved: ES, NL, SE
Action location: Belarus, Azerbaijan, Kazakhstan, Ukraine
Web: http://www.kth.se/en/itm/inst/industriell-ekologi/forskning/ongoing/iemast-establishing-master-level-studies-1.274466

ERASMUS MUNDUS – PARTNERSHIPS (ACTION 2)

Third Call for Proposals 2009

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus External Cooperation Window for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 7)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2009-2012
Budget: 5,299,975 EUR
Contractor: Universidad de Deusto, Spain
Beneficiaries: BY (Belarusian State University, Brest State University), MD (2), UA (6)
EU countries involved as partners: DE, FR, GR, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT + Turkey
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of around 65 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://www.relint.deusto.es/ECWLotBMU/index.html

Fourth Call for Proposals 2010

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1 for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 7)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2010-2014
Budget: 5,289,975 EUR
Contractor: Universidad de Deusto, Spain
Beneficiaries: BY (Belarusian State University, Brest State University), MD (2), UA (6)
EU countries involved as partners: DE, FR, GR, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT + Turkey
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of around 65 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://www.embmu.eu/

Fifth Call for Proposals 2011

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1 for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 8)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2012-2016
Budget: 3,349,625 EUR
Contractor: University of Turku, Finland
Beneficiaries: BY (Belarusian State University, Brest State University, Grodno State University), MD (2), UA (6)
EU countries involved as partners: ES, DE, FR, GR, IT, LT, NL, PL, PT

Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of around 60 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://www.utu.fi/bmu-mid

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1 for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 8)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: 3,349,975 EUR
Contractor: Alexandru Ioan Cuza University of Iasi, Romania
Beneficiaries: BY (Grodno State University, Belarusian National Technical University), MD (3), UA (4)
EU countries involved as partners: AT, BE, FR, DE, NL, PL, ES
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of around 50 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://www.emerge.uaic.ro/

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1 for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 8) Erasmus Mundus Partnership for Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova (EMP-AIM)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: 2,934,025 EUR
Contractor: Mykolo Romerio University, Lithuania
Beneficiaries: BY (Grodno State University, Belarusian State Economic University), MD (3), UA (4)
EU countries involved as partners: AT, HU, IT, LV, SK, ES, UK
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of 40 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://emp-aim.mruni.eu

REGIONAL: Erasmus Mundus Action 2 – Strand 1 for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine (Lot 8) East-West European Network on Higher Technical Education (EWENT)
Financing source: ENPI Inter-Regional, Erasmus Mundus
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: 3,299,800 EUR
Contractor: Warsaw University of Technology, Poland
Beneficiaries: BY (Belarusian National Technical University, Brest State Technical University), MD (1), UA (7)
EU countries involved as partners: FR, CZ, IE, ES, IT, HU
Action location: Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova + EU
Content: For Belarus, it includes a total of 30 mobilities at the levels of undergraduates, masters, doctorates, post-doctorates and academic staff
Contact: http://ewent.meil.pw.edu.pl/

ERASMUS MUNDUS – INDIVIDUAL SCHOLARSHIPS FOR MASTER'S COURSES AND DOCTORAL PROGRAMMES (ACTION 1)
- No Belarusian universities are involved in Erasmus Mundus Master's Courses or Doctoral Programmes.
- Individual scholarships for Belarusians under Action 1 Master's Courses and Doctoral Programmes:

Year	Master's Students	Scholars in Masters courses	Doctoral Candidates
2007	5	0	NA*
2008	9	2	NA*
2009	5	2	NA*
2010	6	NA**	0
2011	4	NA**	0

* First selection of doctoral candidates

made for 2010-2011 academic year.
** Nationality of scholars from 2010 only known after submission of final reports from late 2011 onwards.

EUROPEAN TRAINING FOUNDATION

REGIONAL: Lifelong Learning in Eastern Europe

Financing source:
Contract implementation period: 2011-2013
Budget:
Contractor: European Training Foundation
Beneficiaries: Eastern Partnership countries + Russia
Action location: Eastern Partnership countries + Russia
Content: The project aims to improve training, retraining and skill upgrading of workers and unemployed; broaden possibilities of non-academic education after the secondary school; make qualification that people obtain in education and training more transparent. The ETF will design methods and tools for mutual learning activities, and will provide necessary expertise. It will organise network meetings and support visits, where partners will learn from each other.

Science, Technology, Information Society



Summary:
Framework Programme 7 is the main instrument of cooperation between the EU and Belarus in the field of research. 13 projects with a total budget of around EUR 1.66 million for Belarus are currently ongoing. Most projects are in the field of Information and Communication Technologies as well as Health, Nanotechnologies, Capacity Building and Research Infrastructure. Opportunities for individual research mobility are provided by Marie Curie Actions under FP7.

INITIATIVES

Eastern Partnership: Thematic platform on Contacts between people in the field of research is aimed to integrate partners more actively into the 7th Framework Programme for Research and Development.

Eastern Partnership: Thematic platform on *Contacts between people* in the field of Information society and media aims:

• To foster cooperation among the partners' regulatory authorities for electronic communications as well as between them and the regulators of the EU Member States.
• To promote cooperation between the partners' and the EU Member States' authorities in charge of the development of the Information Society, including the widespread use of ICT by citizens, business and the public sector.

UNDER PREPARATION

The FP7 work programmes for 2012 were adopted by the Commission on the 19 July and a major series of calls were published on the 20 July 2011. The main focus of the calls is the integration of research with innovation to tackle societal challenges and create sustainable jobs and growth by giving Europe a lead in the key technology markets of the future. All of the calls are open for the participation of non-European researchers and/or research organisations working alongside their EU counterparts. In order to highlight this international dimension and to assist researchers from international partner countries/regions, a series of powerpoint presentations are now available for more information on the Europa website at

http://ec.europa.eu/research/iscp/index.cfm?pg=international_dimension_2012wp.

These slides cover all major international partner countries and/or regions - including the Eastern Partnership countries - and set out the international dimension of the work programme, aiming to provide researchers working in non-EU countries with a brief overview of the content of the 2012 work programme and the current calls, highlighting some specific topics in the calls which may be of particular interest.

More information on opportunities for researchers is also available at the following link:

http://cordis.europa.eu/eu-funding-guide/home_en.html

CURRENT PROJECTS

Framework Programme 7

Belarus is eligible to participate in the EU´s **R&D Framework Programme 7**, and successful applicants from Belarus may therefore receive funding in the same way as EU organisations. Thematic National Contact Points of Belarus under FP7 is available at http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/third-countries_en.html. Belarus' National Information Point under FP7 is available under http://fp7-nip.org.by. 13 projects with a total budget of around EUR 1.66 million for Belarus are currently active (see details below). Search tool for FP7 projects: http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/projects_en.html

REGIONAL: INCONET EECA – International Cooperation Network for Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (212226)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2012
Budget: Total: 4,020,797 EUR (including for Belarus 101,361 EUR)
Contractor: International Centre for Black Sea Studies - ICBSS - in Greece
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere
Action location: Eastern Europe and Central Asia
Content: Activities of International Cooperation. The aim of the project is to support and facilitate a bi-regional EU – EECA S&T policy dialogue and, in the case of Russia and the Ukraine, a complementary bilateral S&T policy dialogue involving stakeholders from policy making, science community and industry. The dialogue will address national S&T potential, policy goals and demands in order to define common priorities and to develop respective joint scenarios and implementation strategies in order to strengthen the S&T cooperation. During this project, three S&T Policy Dialogue Platforms will be established and supported through the creation of a knowledge base and a variety of other concrete activities. www.inco-eeca.net, www.increast.eu

REGIONAL: MAGISTER - Magnetic Scaffolds for in vivo Tissue Engineering (214685)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2012
Budget: Total: 11,085,124 EUR (including for Belarus 377,326 EUR)
Contractor: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State Medical University
Action location: 11 EU and non-EU countries
Content: Nanosciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies. MAGISTER is a frontier research project aiming to develop new conceptually type of Magnetic Scaffolds (MagS) for tissue regeneration and orthopaedic surgery. www.magister-project.eu

REGIONAL: HITT-2008 - Health in times of transition: Trends in population health and health policies in CIS countries (223344)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2009-2013
Budget: Total: 3,347,920 EUR (including for Belarus 92,320 EUR)
Contractor: Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna, Austria
Beneficiaries: State Institute of Management and Social Technologies of Belarusian State University
Action location:
Content: Health. To understand long-term trends of population health as a consequence of socio-economic transitions, with a focus on lifestyle-related issues. Overview: A unique team with extensive expertise in health effects of transition will generate new knowledge on health determinants in 11 CIS countries: Russia, Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Uzbekistan, Kyrgyzstan, Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia. It employs a model of health determinants acting at individual and societal level, with distal and proximal influences on health. It focuses on alcohol, tobacco, diet, and health care, each linked to diseases specified in the call. www.hitt-cis.net

REGIONAL: EGI-INSPIRE - European Grid Initiative: Integrated Sustainable Pan-European Infrastructure for Researchers in Europe (261323)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2010-2014
Budget: Total: 72,203,367 EUR (including for Belarus 99,840 EUR)
Contractor: Stichting European Grid Initiative, Netherlands
Beneficiaries: United Institute of Informatics Problems of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Action location:
Content: Research Infrastructures. Scientific research is no longer conducted within national boundaries and is becoming increasing dependent on the large-scale analysis of data, generated from instruments or computer

simulations housed in trans-national facilities, by using e Infrastructure (distributed computing and storage resources linked by high-performance networks). The 48 month EGI-InSPIRE project will continue the transition to a sustainable pan-European e-Infrastructure started in EGEE-III. It will sustain support for Grids of high-performance and high-throughput computing resources, while seeking to integrate new Distributed Computing Infrastructures (DCIs), i.e. Clouds, SuperComputing, Desktop Grids, etc., as they are required by the European user community. It will establish a central coordinating organisation, EGI.eu, and support the staff throughout Europe necessary to integrate and interoperate individual national grid infrastructures. http://www.egi.eu/projects/egi-inspire/

REGIONAL: BY-NANOERA - Institutional Development of Applied Nanoelectromagnetics: Belarus in ERA Widening (266529)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2010-2013
Budget: Total: 422,454 EUR (including for Belarus 282,294 EUR)
Contractor: Belarusian State University, Belarus
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere (15,576 EUR), Belarusian State University (200,994 EUR) and Belarusian National Technical University (65,724 EUR)
Action location: Belarus
Content: Activities of International Cooperation. The project aims at reinforcing RTD and cooperation capacities of the Institute for Nuclear Problems of Belarusian State University in the area of applied nano-electromagnetics. This new research discipline comprising the classical electrodynamics of microwaves and present-day concepts of condensed matter physics is covered by the FP7 Theme 4 'Nano-sciences, Nanotechnologies, Materials and new Production Technologies NMP'. http://www.nano.bsu.by/en/projects/by-nanoera

REGIONAL: IDEALIST2014 (288598)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2014
Budget: Total: 4,780,000 EUR (including for Belarus 46,512 EUR)
Contractor: German Aerospace Center - Project Management Agency
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere
Action location:
Content: Information and Communication Technologies. The main objective of Idealist2014 is reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for ICT under FP7, by promoting further trans-national cooperation within this network. This cooperation will not be reduced to only ICT NCPs but also a degree of collaboration and networking with similar networks in parallel themes (Security, SSH, ENV, Transport, Energy, Health, etc) especially in the context of joint/coordinated or PPP calls will be covered. Special focus is put on helping less experienced NCPs from Member States (MS) and Associated States (AS) to access the know-how accumulated in other countries and to apply it in a locally relevant and efficient manner. http://www.ideal-ist.net/

REGIONAL: EUROCOORD - European Network of HIV/AIDS Cohort Studies to Coordinate at European and International Level Clinical Research on HIV/AIDS (260694)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2015
Budget: Total: 15,970,000 EUR (including for Belarus 36,678 EUR)
Contractor: Medical Research Council, UK
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State Medical University
Action location:
Content: Health. Over the past 15 years, EU-funded cohorts and collaborations (EuroSIDA, CASCADE and PENTA), have played a central role in developing the understanding of HIV progression and the effects of ART, enabling European expertise to contribute directly to the advances in patient diagnosis and management worldwide, and providing a continued surveillance mechanism for detection of emerging problems at a European level. EuroCoord is intended to mobilise European HIV cohort research, bringing it within one truly

pan-European network of cohort studies with a strong and increasing presence in the Central- and Eastern European region. http://www.eurocoord.net/

REGIONAL: ACTRIS - Aerosols, Clouds, and Trace gases Research Infrastructure Network (262254)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2015
Budget: Total: 11,540,000 EUR (including for Belarus 109,594 EUR)
Contractor: Consiglio Nazionale delle Ricerche, Italy
Beneficiaries: B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Action location:
Content: ACTRIS is a coordinated network that contributes to: providing long-term observational data relevant to climate and air quality research produced with standardized or comparable procedures; supporting transnational access to large infrastructures strengthening collaboration in and outside the EU and access to high quality information and services to the user communities; developing new integration tools to fully exploit the use of atmospheric techniques at ground-based stations, in particular for the calibration/validation/integration of satellite sensors and for the improvement of global and regional-scale climate and air quality models. http://www.actris.net/

REGIONAL: SIDARIUS - Sea Ice Downstream Services for Arctic and Antarctic Users and Stakeholders (262922)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2013
Budget: Total: 3,470,000 EUR (including for Belarus 120,000 EUR)
Contractor: Stiftelsen Nansen Senter for Fjernmaaling, Norway
Beneficiaries: B.I. Stepanov Institute of Physics of the National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Action location:
Content: The overall objective of SIDARUS is to develop and implement a set of sea ice downstream services in the area of climate research, marine safety and environmental monitoring. SIDARUS will extend the present GMES services with new satellite-derived sea ice products, ice forecasting from regional models and validation of sea ice products using non-satellite data. The demand for improved sea ice information in the Arctic and Antarctic by many user groups is growing as a result of climate change and its impact on environment and human activities.

REGIONAL: NET4SOCIETY2 - Trans-national co-operation among National Contact Points for Socio-**economic sciences and the Humanities (263924)**
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2013
Budget: Total: 2,220,000 EUR (including for Belarus 9,690 EUR)
Contractor: German Aerospace Centre - Project Management Agency
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State University
Action location: 60 National Contact Points in EU and non-EU countries
Content: Socio-economic sciences and Humanities. A strong and efficient Network of National Contact Points (NCPs) is not only elementary to the success of the Socioeconomic Sciences and the Humanities (SSH) Programme of the FP7 but also to the realization of the European Research Area. The trans-national SSH NCP cooperation project NET4SOCIETY2 strives to increase the awareness for and the visibility of the SSH Programme and its new approach while endorsing a strong NCP network dedicated to increasing the professionalism of its members. www.net4society.eu

REGIONAL: MARTEC II - ERA-NET MARitime TEChnologies II (266111)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2011-2014
Budget: Total: 2,280,000 EUR (including for Belarus 30,000 EUR)
Contractor: Forschungszentrum Juelich GmbH, Germany
Beneficiaries: National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Action location:

Content: An ERA-NET on maritime technologies (MARTEC) began with 12 ministries and funding organisations from 9 European countries in 2006. MARTEC II will: Broaden the geographical scope through the inclusion of new countries. Intensify cooperation by launching calls and joint programmes. Strengthen the dissemination of waterborne research results throughout Europe. The structuring of maritime research will be better coordinated through a programme database and research mapping. There will be information exchange and stronger cooperation between MARTEC and WATERBORNETP, other ERA-NETs (e.g. TRANSPORT II) as well as other initiatives, such as the network SURSHIP, which is essential for future activities. MARTEC will also establish future structures for a sustainable network. http://www.martec-era.net/

REGIONAL: PICTURE «Policy dialogue in ICT to an Upper level for Reinforced EU-EECA Cooperation»
Web:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=PROJ_ICT&ACTION=D&DOC=485&CAT=PROJ&QUERY=01271455d88f:9ebd:4dffa915&RCN=101533

REGIONAL: BELERA "Reinforcing carbon nanotubes and photonics research cooperation between the Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics and the European Research Area"
Web:
http://cordis.europa.eu/fetch?CALLER=FP7_PROJ_EN&ACTION=D&DOC=19&CAT=PROJ&QUERY=0133e6238f23:4afb:21a11306&RCN=101276

MARIE CURIE ACTIONS

Marie Curie Action of the 7th Research Framework Programme – International Research Staff Exchange Scheme – is a new scheme launched on 30 November 2007. It will open the benefits of the Marie Curie approach to staff working in research organisations in all of the 29 countries either with which the EU has a Science and Technology Agreement or which are part of the European Neighbourhood Policy, including Belarus. Exchanges of this type will help to increase international participation in the FP7. More details about the Actions are available via the network of National Contact Points (http://cordis.europa.eu/fp7/ncp_en.html) and from the European Commission (http://ec.europa.eu/research/mariecurieactions/).

Seven Belarusian research organizations are currently involved in Maries Curie Actions, receiving a total of €220,000. These actions are mostly International Research Staff Exchange Scheme grants (swapping staff between research organizations in the EU and third countries).

ISTC PROGRAMMES

The ISTC is an inter-governmental non-profit organisation established in 1992 by an international Agreement. Created after the collapse of the former Soviet Union, its main purpose is to give Russian and other CIS' scientists and engineers that possess knowledge and skills related to weapon of mass destruction or missile delivery systems, opportunities to redirect their talents to peaceful and prosperous research activities. The European Community (EC) and the European Atomic Energy Community, acting as one Party, signed the Agreement establishing the Centre and the EC has contributed to its financing.

According to the Council regulations governing the Communities' participation in the Centre, the EU Council Presidency and the Commission each appoint one representative to serve as Board Member (for the Commission: Research DG - Deputy Director General, Ms Anneli Pauli).

Support to ISTC is funded through the Instrument for Stability and managed by DG RTD.

Belarus receives funding from the Stability Instrument through ISTC (International Science and Technology Center). Out of 17 million dedicated to the reconversion of military research activities to civil ones, Commission finances/financed 11 million: for instance conversion of military explosions know-how to explosion technology in mine industry, conversion of military bacterial research to civil one, idem in chemistry/health; this can include topping-up of salaries for scientists.

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: NET4SOCIETY - Transnational Co-operation among National Contact Points for Socio-Economic Sciences and the Humanities (217152)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2011
Budget: Total: 3,075,815 EUR (including for Belarus 27,844 EUR)
Contractor: German Aerospace Center - Project Management Agency
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State University
Action location: 60 National Contact Points in EU and non-EU countries
Content: Socio-economic sciences and Humanities. NET4SOCIETY is the international network of National Contact Points for Socio-economic Sciences and Humanities (SSH) in the 7th European Framework Programme (FP7). National Contact Points (NCPs) are set up to guide researchers in their quest for securing EU funding.
www.net4society.eu

REGIONAL: ENRI-EAST - Interplay of European, National and Regional Identities: Nations between States along the New Eastern Borders of the European Union (217227)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2011
Budget: Total: 1,722,969 EUR (including for Belarus 53,760 EUR)
Contractor: Institute for Advanced Studies in Vienna, Austria
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State University
Action location: 11 partners from 8 EU countries as well as 3 partners from CIS countries (RU, UA, BY)
Content: Socio-economic sciences and Humanities. ENRI-East is an international research effort undertaken by a network of eleven teams embracing more than 50 scientists from ten EU and CIS countries, working closely together to acquire new knowledge and achieve a deeper understanding of the interplay of European, national and regional identities evolving along the new eastern borders of the European Union. www.enri-east.net

REGIONAL: EECALINK - Promotion and facilitation of international cooperation with Eastern European and Central Asian Countries (223359)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2010
Budget: Total: 679,125 EUR (including for Belarus 19,561 EUR)
Contractor: Charles University, Prague, Czech Republic
Beneficiaries: Institute of Biophysics and Cell Engineering, National Academy of Sciences of Belarus
Action location:
Content: Health. The EECAlink is a coordination action aimed at identification of joint research priorities of the EU and EECA countries and strengthening scientific collaboration among them in the field of public health. The consortium gathers partners from: Armenia, Belarus, Czech Republic, Georgia, Hungary, Italy, Kazakhstan, Moldova, Poland, Russia, Ukraine, Uzbekistan. www.eecalink.eu

REGIONAL: BALTICGRID-II (223807)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2010
Budget: Total: 3,344,777 EUR (including for Belarus 338,016 EUR)
Contractor: Kungliga Tekniska Hogskolan, Sweden
Beneficiaries: Belarusian National Technical University (155,488 EUR), United Institute of Informatics Problems of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (182,528 EUR)
Action location:
Content: Research Infrastructures. The Baltic Grid Second Phase (BalticGrid-II) project is designed to increase the impact, adoption and reach, and to further improve the support of services and users of the recently created e-Infrastructure in the Baltic States. This will be achieved by an extension of the BalticGrid infrastructure to Belarus; interoperation of the gLite-based infrastructure with UNICORE and ARC based Grid resources in the

region; identifying and addressing the specific needs of new scientific communities such as nano-science and engineering sciences; and by establishing new Grid services for linguistic research, Baltic Sea environmental research, data mining tools for communication modelling and bioinformatics.

REGIONAL: EXTEND - Extending ICT research co-operation between the European Union, Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus (231137)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2009-2011
Budget: Total: 1,028,331 EUR (including for Belarus 65,510 EUR)
Contractor: PLANET S.A, Greece
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere
Action location:
Content: Information and Communication Technologies. It aims to support the ICT research communities in the Eastern European and Southern Caucasus countries by identifying suitable ICT research actors per country, training them on the procedural aspects of FP7 and providing assistance in developing networks with ICT research actors across Europe. A second key component of EXTEND is that it addresses the need for well-defined future research priorities that will enhance S&T co-operation between the EU and EESC countries. This project will identify the ICT research priorities of the target countries and will result in recommendations for closer co-operation between the EU, Eastern Europe and the Southern Caucasus. The project will mainly focus its activities on 4 countries, i.e. Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Moldova. www.extend-ict.eu

REGIONAL: SCUBE-ICT - Strategic cooperation between Ukraine, Belarus and EU in information and communication technologies (231148)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2009-2010
Budget: Total: 777,002 EUR (including for Belarus 138,318 EUR)
Contractor: International Environment and Quality Services North Greece Ltd
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere (58,318 EUR), Belarusian State University of Informatics and Radioelectronics (40,000 EUR), United Institute of Informatics Problems of National Academy of Sciences of Belarus (40,000 EUR)
Action location: EU, Belarus and Ukraine
Content: Information and Communication Technologies. EU, Belarus and Ukraine face common ICT R&D opportunities and challenges that create a favourable environment for strategic collaboration. The main aim of SCUBE-ICT is to increase co-operation between ICT researchers from the three regions. www.scube-ict.eu

REGIONAL: IDEALIST2011 (231367)
Financing source: FP7
Contract implementation period: 2008-2011
Budget: Total: 3,758,617 EUR (including for Belarus 17,731 EUR)
Contractor: German Aerospace Center - Project Management Agency
Beneficiaries: Belarusian Institute of System Analysis and Information Support of Scientific and Technical Sphere
Action location:
Content: Information and Communication Technologies. The main objective of Idealist2011 is reinforcing the network of National Contact Points (NCP) for ICT under FP7, by promoting further trans-national cooperation within this network. This cooperation will not be reduced to only ICT NCPs but also a degree of collaboration and networking with similar networks in parallel themes (Security, SSH, ENV, Transport, Energy, Health,…etc) especially in the context of joint/coordinated calls will be covered. Special focus is put on helping less experienced NCPs from Member States (MS) and Associated States (AS) to access the know-how accumulated in other countries and to apply it in a locally relevant and efficient manner. http://www.ideal-ist.net/

REGIONAL: ISTOK-SOYUZ – Information Society Technologies to Open Knowledge for Eastern Europe and Central Asia (231665)

Financing source: FP7

Contract implementation period: 2009-2011

Budget: Total: 1,191,793 EUR (including for Belarus 41,880 EUR)

Contractor: INNO AG, Germany

Beneficiaries: Innovation Association Akademtechnopark

Action location:

Content: Information and Communication Technologies. The ISTOK-SOYUZ project, based on the sound outcomes and lessons learnt of the ISTOK.Ru project www.istok-ru.eu implemented in Russia in 2006-2008, will expand the ISTOK experience to the Eastern Europe & Central Asia countries, identifying and promoting visibility of mutual RTD potential and collaboration opportunities. www.istok-soyuz.eu

PART 2 – SOCIOECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND ECONOMIC MODERNIZATION

Agriculture



Summary: At present the EU actions in the field of agriculture are limited to official consultations between the Ministry of food and agriculture of Belarus and DG AGRI and DG SANCO aiming at harmonisation of the Belarusian veterinary and food legislation in order to allow the export of the Belarusian agricultural products to the EU. The convergence of the Belarusian and European legislation in the field of quality of animal products is the main condition for open access of the Belarusian foodstuffs to the EU market.
The only past project focusing on agriculture is the **Strengthening Smallholder's agricultural activities on radioactive contaminated lands of the Bragin district** realized in the framework of the **CORE Program** “Cooperation for Rehabilitation of living conditions in Chernobyl affected areas in Belarus”.
Some of the agriculture related projects are also realized within the NSA/LA instrument like the project **Territorial Approach for Village Development** (€ 247 927) implemented by the International Foundation for Rural Development (BY) which provide information support in agriculture technologies for rural entrepreneurs.

INITIATIVES

ENPARD
The latest developments in the agriculture sector include the identification of potential cooperation areas within the freshly launched **European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD)**. The EU proposed to develop **ENPARD** in the framework of the review of the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP), as a concrete response to the new developments in the Southern Mediterranean but also in view of the important socio-economic role of agriculture and rural areas in the ENP partner countries of both South and East.
This initiative has been reflected in two joint Communications of the European Commission and the European External Action Service: "A partnership for democracy and shared prosperity with the southern Mediterranean" (March 2011) and "A new response to a changing Neighbourhood" (May 2011).
The initiative's aims are three-fold: firstly, improving rural livelihoods by facilitating inclusive economic growth and sustainable –economically, socially and environmentally- development of rural areas; secondly, contributing to increasing food security and food safety benefiting the whole populations of the countries; and thirdly, developing and strengthening capacities of both public administration and civil society organisations, fostering an inclusive process.
A current joint EU-FAO project aims to assess the agricultural sector in the EaP countries, including Belarus, and identify potential areas of cooperation (please see below).

AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT: First round of talks took place in Minsk on 2.12.09 (DG AGRI - Agriculture and rural development and DG SANCO – Health and Consumer Protection).

UNDER PREPARATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

REGIONAL: Assessment of the agriculture and rural development sectors in the Eastern Partnership countries - ENPI 2012/298-262

Financing source: ENPI
Contract implementation period: July-December 2012
Budget: 300,000 EUR
Contractor: FAO – Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
Beneficiaries: Ministries of Agriculture and/or Rural Development as well as, other line ministries and other relevant sector stakeholders from the six countries will be the primary beneficiaries and main stakeholders of the project, while farmers' associations, small farmers, rural families, local authorities, as well as other private sector stakeholders will be the main final beneficiaries of the project.
Action location: EaP countries
Content: A general assessment of the agriculture and rural areas will be crucial for developing proper strategies for the sector, some of which are usually a key element towards Deep and Comprehensive Free Trade Agreements (DCFTA) negotiations (food safety, animal health, etc.).
This project will contribute to assess the situation in the sector, priority sub-sectors, areas of intervention and beneficiaries that should be targeted in detail within agriculture and rural development.
The overall scope of the project is in line with the European Neighbourhood Programme for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD) an EU initiative built in the EU's best practice experienced in developing agriculture and rural areas. Based on the results of this project, ENPARD programs and activities could de identified, elaborated and implemented in interested EaP countries.

PAST PROJECTS

NATIONAL: Strengthening Smallholder's agricultural activities on radioactive contaminated lands of the Bragin district

Financing source: TACIS – TACIS 2003 / 004-943
Contract implementation period: 09/08/2005 - 09/08/2007
Budget: 95,856.00 EUR (EU contribution 58,496.00)
Contractor: L'EPANOUISSEMENT ETLE RENOUVEAU DE LA TERRE
Beneficiaries: rural producers, local communities and authorities of Bragin District
Action location: Bragin district, Gomel region
Content: The aim of the project is to create gradually, together with public and private, local, national and international participants, the conditions and means for the sustainable and profound development of territorial processes in which the rural population will improve its living conditions through the development of private agricultural activities. It will be achieved through technical, informational and methodological support to rural producers' local initiatives for improving potato, vegetable, milk and meat productions in accordance with radiological and economic criteria. The project is planned to be implemented during two years in five villages of the Bragin district, with the participation of 150 rural families. The participants will be proposed to estimate on small private experimental plots the efficiency of various innovative agricultural techniques, opening perspectives for their use in the future. Throughout the project, support given to the participants' initiatives (individual or common) will progressively build and strengthen the rural population's role and participation in local development strategies.

Energy



Summary:

Energy sector is an important field of the EU-Belarus cooperation. Cooperation takes place in both bilateral and regional dimensions as well as through regular sector dialogue. The biggest bilateral on-going project (AAP 2007, 5 m EUR) aims at supporting the Ministry of Energy in terms of electricity sector reforms, tariff reforms and restructuring, and the Department of Energy Efficiency of the State Committee on Standardisation – in terms of norms and standards in energy efficiency. The project also provides assistance in implementation of pilot projects, one of which is a biogas installation and the other is the modernisation of a boarding school for improved energy consumption.

Regional cooperation is developing through INOGATE programme, which is an international energy co-operation programme between the European Union and the Partner Countries of Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan. They have agreed to work together toward achieving the following four major objectives: 1) Converging energy markets on the basis of the principles of the EU internal energy market taking into account the particularities of the involved countries; 2) Enhancing energy security by addressing the issues of energy exports/imports, supply diversification, energy transit and energy demand; 3) Supporting sustainable energy development, including the development of energy efficiency, renewable energy and demand side management; 4) Attracting investment towards energy projects of common and regional interest. Belarus takes part in almost all INOGATE projects which do not supply equipment, etc. but assist country's policymakers through increasing their skills, capacity building, transfer of knowledge and best regulatory practices in energy sector.

INITIATIVES

* Last round of consultations took place in Minsk on 15 September 2011.

* Declaration on cooperation between the European Commission and the Republic of Belarus in the field of energy (was signed on 22.6.09 during the visit of Mrs Benita Ferrero-Waldner in Minsk)

* Declaration of intention to pursue EU-Belarus dialogue on crucial energy questions of mutual interest. It will have formal value when signed by both parties.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP

Thematic platform on **Energy security aims at:**

- Enhancing framework conditions and solidarity
- Support for infrastructure development, interconnection and diversification of supply
- Harmonisation of energy policies.

Flagship Initiative - **Regional electricity markets, improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy sources**

An integrated and interconnected regional electricity market in and with EaP countries will bring greater energy security for the partners and the EU. In addition, both the partners and the EU have a substantial potential to increase efficiency of energy production, transmission and use (in the area of buildings, transport and industry). There are also great opportunities for enhancing the use of indigenous renewable energy sources. However, an appropriate regulatory framework and financing mechanisms need to be developed to realise these opportunities. Work under this initiative will take into account the existing acquis in this area and will include support provided through programmes such as the Intelligent Energy Europe and INOGATE.

Focusing on these issues will enhance the security of electricity supply, bring environmental benefits and decrease the need for energy imports, thus improving energy security and reducing the import bill.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: "Support to the Implementation of a Comprehensive Energy Policy for the Republic of Belarus".
Financial source: ENPI/2007/018-784
Contract implementation period: 01/01/2011 – 01/12/2013
Budget: 5.000.000
Contractor: KEMA&SOFRICO consortium
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy.
Action location: Belarus.
Content: policy advice on electricity sector reforms, energy efficiency norms and standards, promotion of renewable energy sources use.

REGIONAL: "INOGATE Technical Secretariat and Integrated Programme in Support of the Baku Initiative and the Eastern Partenrship Energy Objectives
Financial source: ENPI-East Regional Action Plan 2010 (CRIS: ENPI/2011/278-827)
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: 16.576.000 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy.
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: to enhance the role of the INOGATE Technical Secretariat by integrating its traditional duties of communication and coordination of the INOGATE Programme with technical advisory activities previously implemented under separate contracts, in the fields of: horizontal management and communication; convergence of energy markets; efficiency of energy supply infrastructures; sustainable energy institutional governance; enhanced use and harmonisation of energy statistics.

REGIONAL: "Supporting participation of Eastern European and Central Asian Cities in the Covenant of Mayors (CoMEast)"
Financial source: ENPI/2011/ 265-434
Contract implementation period: September 2011-2013
Budget: 4.032.780
Contractor: Consortium led by Energy-Cities and composed of Climate Alliance, Energy Efficient Cities of Ukraine, NL Agency and the Central Asia Regional Environment Centre
Beneficiaries: local authorities.
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan); and the Russian Federation
Content: to support local authorities in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, to improve security of their energy supply, and to allow them to contribute more actively to climate change mitigation (20-20-20 goal).

REGIONAL: "Yes (Da) to the Covenent" (DACO)
Financial source: ENPI/2011/ 270-922
Contract implementation period: 2011-2013
Budget: 500.000
Contractor: City of Chieti
Beneficiaries: local authorities.
Action location: Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Tajikistan
Content: to support local authorities to reduce their dependency on fossil fuels, to improve security of their energy supply, and to allow them to contribute more actively to climate

REGIONAL: "Energy saving initiative in the building sector in the EE and CA countries (ESIB)" (INOGATE).

Financial source: ENPI-East and Central Asian countries, RAP 2008, 2009/216-206
Contract implementation period: 01/2010 – 12/2013
Budget: 4.449.650
Contractor: SOFRECO
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: Convergence of energy markets on the basis of the EU internal energy market principles, taking into account the particularities of the countries involved; Supporting sustainable energy development, including the development of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and demand side management.

Regional: "The Baltic Sea Region Bioenergy Promotion Project"
Financing source: **Baltic Sea Region** ENPI CBC Baltic Region Programme 2008
Contract implementation period: 25/10/2008 – 24/01/2013
Budget: 5.062.910
Contractor*:* Swedish Energy Agency
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Volkovisk Forestry Enterprise **(**24.200), Ministry of Forestry, Belarus **(**98.000)
Content: There are two key issues for the region: A) there are huge biomaterial resources and only a fraction utilised so far and B) there is an increasing interest for the resources, and as they are (after all) limited, the use has to be sustainable and the competition between the use for Food, Fibre and Fuel has to be balanced. The project aims at strengthening the development towards a sustainable, competitive and territorially integrated Baltic Sea Region in the field of sustainable use of bio-energy.

Regional: Energy Efficient and Integrated Urban Development Action
Financing source: ENPI CBC Baltic Region Programme 2008
Contractor: German Association for Housing, Urban and Spatial Development
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Grodno Oblast Executive Committee, Housing Department: 200.000
Budget: 3.768.840
Duration: 25/10/2008 – 24/01/2013
Content: The European housing stock is a major contributor to energy waste and CO_2 emissions. At the same time the refurbishment rate in the new EU member states still is extremely low and sustainable urban development concepts are barely addressed, neither in local, nor regional or national policies in the Baltic Sea Region (BSR). The project Urb.Energy addresses these issues and aims at the elaboration and partly implementation of transferable integrated concepts and strategies for the sustainable and holistic rehabilitation of residential areas in the BSR.

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: "Support to Energy Market Integration and Sustainable Energy in the NIS countries (SEMISE)" (INOGATE)
Financial source: ENPI-East RAP 2007 and the INOGATE Programme, contract number 2008/163-877
Contract implementation period: 19/01/2009 – 19/01/2012
Budget: 5.670.000
Contractor: Ramboll
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: Convergence of energy markets on the basis of the EU internal energy market principles, taking into account the particularities of the countries involved; Supporting sustainable energy development, including the development of energy efficiency, renewable energy sources and demand side management.

REGIONAL: "Capacity building for sustainable energy regulation in Eastern Europe and Central Asia" (INOGATE)

Financial source: TACIS RAP 2008 - ID number: EuropeAid/125 228/C/SER/Multi
Contract implementation period: March 2010 – December 2011
Budget: 505.856
Contractor: ERRA
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: to promote and advocate good and sound energy regulatory practices with special emphasis on strengthening energy efficiency measures, the use of renewable energy resources and district heating in Partner Countries of INOGATE.

REGIONAL: "Harmonisation of electricity standards" (INOGATE)

Financial source: TACIS RAP 2006 - ID number: EuropeAid/125 228/C/SER/Multi
Contract implementation period: 16/09/2009 – 15/03/2011
Budget: 1.482.500
Contractor: CEN-BSI
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: to contribute to support the countries' uptake of international standards, rules and practices, particularly focusing on equipment standards in the electricity sector.

REGIONAL: "Safety and security of main gas transit infrastructure in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus"

Financial source: TACIS RAP 2005, CRIS Contract 122-857
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 999.999
Contractor: SWECO
Beneficiaries: Ministry of energy, Energy Efficiency Department, Ministry of economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: A) Analyse and validate the main causes of supply disruption on main transit lines, including the annual number of incidents and accidents per segment and provide a base estimate of total gas vented by country;
B) Implement general and specific computerised intervention, maintenance and monitoring schemes, highlighting priority areas;
C) Establishment of an effective management pilot system ("excellence system") addressing gas pipeline operational and technical management, including line safety and creation of a control centre, replicable elsewhere;
D) Provide training of key beneficiary personnel on one or more pipeline segments of a "excellence system", encompassing also infrastructure interoperability protocols and sharing.

REGIONAL: "Development of Maintenance Excellence in NIS Gas Companies" (INOGATE)

Financial source: TACIS Regional Action Programme 2003
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 1.460.000
Contractor: Fichtner
Beneficiaries: Beltransgas
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: To support the modernization of maintenance policies and practices in the gas Companies of the participating NIS countries, according to EU best practices, by facilitating the introduction of international

standards and practices in maintaining gas transportation systems, taking into account environmental and safety concerns.

REGIONAL: "Harmonisation of gas and oil technical standards and practices in Eastern Europe and the Caucasus" (INOGATE)
Financial source: TACIS 2005 RAP, CRIS contract 122-856
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 2.930.500
Contractor: Fichtner-SWECO
Beneficiaries: the Ministry of Energy, Ministry of Economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: to support the beneficiary countries' uptake of international standards, rules and practices for design, construction, manufacturing, testing, certification, accreditation, operation, storage and maintenance applied to all components of gas and oil production/ transmission/ storage.

REGIONAL: "Capacity-building for Energy Regulators in Eastern Europe and Central Asia"
Financial source: ENPI EAST 2007
Contract implementation period: 01/2009 - 07/2010
Budget: 330.000 EUR
Contractor: ERRA
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Energy, Energy Regulators, Ministry of Economy
Action location: INOGATE countries (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Ukraine and Uzbekistan).
Content: To promote and advocate good and sound energy regulatory practices in the Partner Countries of the INOGATE Programme and to harmonise energy regulatory practices among them, as well as transfer of EU best practices and the strengthening of cooperation among the countries involved.

Environment & Sustainable Development



Summary:
The environment is one of the three pillars of sustainable development together with economic and social development. The EU's interest in Belarus in this field deals with environmental issues of international and trans-boundary importance, namely upgrading of management in internationally shared river basins; better managing waste generated by human activity; and protection of the biodiversity on its territory.
Belarus has a number of bilateral environmental projects aimed at the institutional support of the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection and its bodies as well as at assisting Belarus in better access to European legislation, norms, adoption of international conventions, etc. The practical goals are in the areas of eco-tourism (creating additional jobs and touristic attractiveness of the country), waste management, protection and improvement of biodiversity, etc. Due to common environmental tasks and challenges, the level of bilateral cooperation is increasing from 3 m EUR per project in the past to 15 m EUR in the nearest future (AAP 2012).

Besides bilateral cooperation, Belarus takes an active role in regional cooperation. Among common problems which regional projects are supposed to solve are as follows: climate change mitigation, improved and protected biodiversity, shared informational system, common legislation and adoption of the EU conventions, cleaner water and air.

INITIATIVES

Expert talks: Fifth round of consultations is scheduled for October 2011 in Brussels.

*** Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (www.ndep.org):** The NDEP is a result-focused initiative responding to calls from the international community - including **Russia and Belarus (as an observer)** - for concerted action to tackle some of the most pressing environmental problems in the Northern Dimension Area covering the Baltic and Barents Seas region.

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: The objectives of the *thematic platform on Environment and Climate Change* are:

- Promotion of convergence with the environment acquis and strengthened implementation of multilateral environment agreements (in particular the Kyoto Protocol, CBD and UNECE conventions);
- Exchange of experience and best practice on strategic planning, environmental governance, progress monitoring, enforcement, specific environment themes (such as air, water, waste management, integrated coastal zone management and biodiversity), and the financing of environment investments in a regional context;
- Involvement of partners in international discussions on future climate action, promotion of regional action on mitigation and adaptation and climate mainstreaming, and sharing of experience on emissions trading;
- Cooperation on collection, monitoring and assessment of environment information, including with the European Environment Agency.
- Working with partners to assess options for developing a flagship project on environment.

UNDER PREPARATION

NATIONAL: "Green economy in Belarus"
Financial source: ENPI, AAP 2012
Contract implementation period: 2013 – 2016
Budget: 12.000.000 (EC contribution is 12.000.000)
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection
Action location: Belarus.

Content: the projects aimed at the support to the implementation of Belarus's environmental policies as well as pilot projects in the field of green economy. Education and dissemination activities promote awareness raising, capacity building and development of grassroots initiatives at local level, including an information campaign involving the Belarusian citizens, targeted NGOs, schools, universities, businesses, as well as local and regional authorities

REGIONAL: "Clima East Programme: support to climate change mitigation and adaptation in Russia and Eastern Neighbourhood countries"
Financial source: ENPI East, contract number XXX
Contract implementation period: 2013 –2016
Budget: 18.000.000
Contractor: under evaluation
Beneficiaries: national governments.
Action location: ENPI countries.
Content: to foster improved climate change policies, strategies and market mechanisms in the partner countries that are well informed about the EU 'acquis', by supporting regional cooperation and improving information access to EU climate change policies, laws and expertise.

REGIONAL: "Strengthening Environmental Governance in EU Eastern Neighbourhood Countries by Building up Capacity of Non-Governmental Organisations Working in the Field of Environment"
Financial source: ENRTP, ENPI East, contract number XXX
Contract implementation period: May 2012 – April 2015
Budget: 1.862.500 EUR of which Commission funds 1.500.000.
Contractor: under evaluation
Beneficiaries: Belarusian NGOs
Action location: ENPI countries.
Content: is to help local environmental NGOs in all Eastern ENP countries build capacity to better influence public opinion and to contribute in a constructive dialogue with national governments and competent authorities in moving towards the implementation of a modern environment policy, more in line with EU standards.

REGIONAL: "Green Economy in the Eastern partnership countries"
Financial source: ENPI East, contract number XXX
Contract implementation period: 2013 – 2017
Budget: 10.000.000 EUR.
Contractor: under evaluation
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: ENPI countries.
Content: to promote green economy, to decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and resource depletion in the Eastern Partnership countries.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: "Support to the development of a comprehensive framework for international environmental co-operation in the Republic of Belarus"
Financial source: ENPI, AAP 2008 (019-957)
Contract implementation period: 01/10/2010 – 31/10/2013
Budget: 5.080.000 (EC contribution is 5.000.000)
Contractor: Joint management with UNDP.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection
Action location: Belarus
Content: the projects aimed at the support to the implementation of Belarus's environmental policies as well as pilot projects in the field of solid waste management. Education and dissemination activities promote awareness raising, capacity building and development of grassroots initiatives at local level, including an information

campaign involving the Belarusian citizens, targeted NGOs, schools, universities, businesses, as well as local and regional authorities

REGIONAL: "Protection Of Freshwaters And Marine Environment In The Wider Black Sea Region" (Component A: Environmental Protection Of International River Basins Project)
Financial source: ENPI/2009/021-924
Contract implementation period: 16/12/2011 - 16/12/2015
Budget: 13.000.000
Contractor: consortium Human Dynamics (Austria).
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Eastern Europe region.
Content: to improve availability and quality of data on the ecological, chemical, and hydro-morphological status of trans-boundary river basins including groundwater, to develop River Basin Management Plans for selected river basins / sub-river basins according to the requirements of the EU WFD.

REGIONAL: "Support to the EU Water Initiative in Eastern Europe, the Caucasus and Central Asia (EUWI EECCA)
Financial source: ENPI/2011/206-062
Contract implementation period: 48 months
Budget: 4.000.000
Contractor: Joint management with UNECE and OECD.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: all countries.
Content: The project represents the second phase of an ongoing contract with OECD and UNECE for the implementation in the region of activities related to the EU Water Initiative..

REGIONAL: "Improving capacities to tascle obsolete pesticides and other unused hazardous chemicals in the former Soviet Union"
Financial source: Multi-annual thematic document (ENRTP, AAP 2011, Part 2), DCI/2011/269-940
Contract implementation period: February 2012 – December 2015
Budget: 3.200.000
Contractor: Joint management with the Food and Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) together with UNEP, Green Cross, IHPA and Milieukontakt.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: CIS countries.
Content: to facilitate action to tackle some of the major problems in the region relating to the legacy of obsolete pesticides and other unused hazardous chemicals, by promoting synergies between countries and facilitating the preparation and implementation of clean-up actions or safe storage in the countries, and developing capacity to strengthen pesticide and other chemical management.

REGIONAL: "Towards a Shared Environmental Information System (SEIS) in the European Neighbourhood"
Financial source: ENPI, ENPI South East 2009, 019-800, contract number 210-629.
Contract implementation period: 10/12/2009 – 31/17/2015
Budget: 5.746.500
Contractor: European Environment Agency (EEA).
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural resources and Environmental Protection
Action location: ENPI countries.
Content: improved and shared access to environmental information.

REGIONAL: "Analysis for ENPI Countries on Social and Economic Benefits of Enhanced Environment Protection"
Financial source: ENPI/2009/225-962
Contract implementation period: 30/12/2009 – 30/12/2012
Budget: 1.300.000

Contractor: ARCADIS Belgium N.V.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Ministry of economy.
Action location: 17 countries of the ENPI East and South region.
Content: to achieve improved understanding and awareness of the economic and social benefits of environmental improvement; to improve the capacity of beneficiary countries to assess the economic and social benefits of environmental improvement and integrate environmental considerations into wide policy development; to improve capacity of beneficiary countries to set strategies and prioritise convergence of their environmental policies and legislation.

REGIONAL: "Sustainable Urban Energy in the ENPI Region - Towards the Covenant of Mayors" (SURE)
Financial source: ENPI/2009/225962
Contract implementation period: 2009-2012
Budget: 791.725 (BY part – 175.000)
Contractor: City of Friedrichshafen (Germany)
Beneficiaries: Polock City Council and Executive Committee (Belarus)
Action location: Belarus, Morocco, Germany, Spain
Content: This project focuses on one city in Belarus (Polozk) and one – in Morocco (Sale), and help these establish transnational networks and develop the capacity to elaborate their own sustainable energy action plans (SEAP). It also prepares and implements pilot actions and organize public awareness activities to help a broad range of stakeholders and beneficiaries understand what options are available to them.

REGIONAL: "Waste Governance – ENPI East"
Financial source: ENPI East/2008/170-782.
Contract implementation period: 01/12/2009 – 31/12/2013
Budget: 5.845.500
Contractor: Eptisa Servicios De Ingenieria.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Belarus, Moldova, Russian Federation, Ukraine, Georgia, Armenia and Azerbaijan.
Content: to improve the management of waste by promoting higher standards at waste facilities, more effective waste prevention initiatives, increased capacities for waste collection and sorting, as well as increasing reuse, recovery and safe disposal of waste. The activities should contribute to the wider objective of promoting more sustainable consumption and production patterns in Russia and the Eastern ENP Partner Countries, in order to ensure a more holistic approach to minimising negative environmental impacts and maximising social benefits related to production and consumption.

REGIONAL: "Air Quality Governance in the ENPI East Partner Countries"
Financial source: ENPI East regional 2009, 2010/232-231
Contract implementation period: 2010 - 2014
Budget: 6.935.000
Contractor: MWH in consortia with CENN (Caucasus Environmental NGO Network), FORCE Technology Rusland (Russia), GOPA consultants mbH (Germany), Ukrainian National Environment NGO "MAMA-86" and NERI (National Environmental Research Institute, Aarhus University).
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia and Ukraine
Content: to improve the convergence to European legislation and regulations contributing to the improved air quality and strengthen implementation and compliance, the implementation of Multilateral Environmental Agreements; to raise environmental awareness through cooperation at regional and sub-regional levels.

REGIONAL: “Improving Forest Law Enforcement and Governance in the European Neighbourhood Policy East Countries and Russia" (FLEG Program)
Financial source: ENPI/2007/147187
Contract implementation period: 19/12/2007 – 31/12/2012
Budget: 6.000.000
Contractor: The World Bank Group.

Beneficiaries: Ministry of forestry.
Action location: ENPI region.
Content: Supports governments, civil society, and the private sector in participating countries in the development of sound and sustainable forest management practices, including reducing the incidence of illegal forestry activities.

NATIONAL: "Implementation of new concepts for wet peatland management for the sustainable production of biomass-based energy (wetland-energy)"
Financial source: 2009 AAP ENRTP, 020-656, Contract number: DCI-ENV/2010/220-473.
Contract implementation period: 29/12/2010 – 28/06/2013.
Budget: 1.235.860
Contractor: Michael Succow Stiftung zum Schutz der Natur(Michael Succow Foundation for nature protection).
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Sakharov Environmental University (Minsk).
Action location: Belarus, peatland reach rural areas: Dokudovskoe peatland, Lida district; Sporava peatlands, Beriosa district; and Germany.
Content: peatland rehabilitation.

REGIONAL: "Support for the implementation of the CBD (Convention on biodiversity) Programme of Work on Protected Areas in the EU Neighbourhood Policy Areas and Russia"
Financial source: ENRTP AAP 2008, contract n. DCI-ENV/2009/ 149-825
Contract implementation period: 16/12/2008 – 16/12/2012
Budget: 1.484.000
Contractor: Council of Europe
Beneficiaries: ENPI countries.
Action location: ENPI countries.
Content: extension of the implementation of the EU's Natura 2000 principles through the Emerald Network.

REGIONAL: Ecovillages for sustainable rural development
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Contractor: Lithuanian Institute of Agrarian Economics
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Centre of Environmental Solutions **(**148.785)
Budget: 1.467.330
Duration: 17/09/2010 – 16/12/2013
Content: The project aims at helping our society to get closer to nature again and to develop new ways of living together on the land in a genuinely more sustainable way. This is especially important given the climate crisis and resource shortages that we face. The eco-village concept is an innovation offering solutions to many resource, climate and social life problems societies of the BSR face.

REGIONAL: COOL Bricks – Climate Change, Cultural Heritage & Energy Efficient Monuments
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Lead partner: Free and Hanseatic City of Hamburg, Ministry of Culture, Sports and Media, Department for Heritage Preservation
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Innovation Association Akademtechnopark, Republican Centre for Technology Transfer, 178.992
Budget: 4.308.970
Duration: 17/09/2010 – 16/12/2013
Content: The conservation of heritage, in particular historical buildings, is a common goal in the BSR. Due to the common identity in the BSR it is very important to protect the historical buildings to preserve the individual characteristics and therewith the attractiveness and competitiveness of the cities around the Baltic Sea. Furthermore the CO2-reduction is an accepted and common goal in all cities and regions around the Baltic Sea Region.

REGIONAL: An advanced weather radar network for the Baltic Sea Region (BALTRAD)
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region

Lead partner: Swedish Meteorological and Hydrological Institute
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Republical Hydrometeorological Center (34.600)
Total budget: 2.133.500
Duration: 25/10/2008 – 24/01/2013
Content: BALTRAD aims at developing an innovative ICT system for collecting, exchanging, and processing weather radar data designed to improve weather forecasting activities dependent on such information.

REGIONAL: Project on Urban Reduction of Eutrophication (PURE)
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Lead partner: Union of the Baltic Cities Commission on Environment Secretariat/City of Turku (EE)
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Brest Municipal Unitary Water and Wastewater Enterprise Vodokanal (446.940)
Total budget: 3.168.620,00
Duration: 17/09/2009 – 16/12/2012
Content: Eutrophication is a major problem in the Baltic Sea. It's caused by excessive phosphorus and nitrogen loads coming from land-based sources. At least 95% of the phosphorus load enter the Baltic Sea waterborne and a major part of this load originates from point sources. Here the municipal waste water treatment plants play the primary role. New actions to reduce the amount of phosphorus from the effluent ending up to the Baltic Sea are immediately needed and addressed by the project.

REGIONAL: BERAS IMPLEMENTATION – Baltic Ecological Recycling Agriculture and Society Implementation
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Lead partner: Södertörn University, Costal Management Research Centre (SE)
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: International Public Association of Animal Breeders "East-West" **(**100.000)
Total budget: 4.517.130
Duration: 11/06/2010 – 10/09/2013
Content: The project is based on the results from the BSR partially EU-funded BERAS project 2003-2006 ref. www.jdb.se/beras. The result show that ecological (organic) recycling agriculture based on local renewable resources, integrated crop and animal production and a more regionally based food system substantially can reduce losses of nitrogen and phosphorus to the Baltic Sea. BERAS Implementation offers a response to the challenges to achieve a good environmental status in the Baltic Sea, reinforce sustainable agriculture and enhance rural development in the region.

REGIONAL: RECO Baltic 21 Tech
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Lead partner: IVL Swedish Environmental Research Institute
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Belarusian Association of Environmental Management **(**260.000)
Total budget: 2.786.410
Duration: 17/09/2010 – 16/12/2013
Content: The Reco Baltic 21-Tech responds to the great challenges in the field of waste management by strengthening the BSR capacity to climb the waste hierarchy and meet the EU-directives. Equally important for RB21T is to add a component that creates innovative business opportunities in the Clean-Tech industry.

REGIONAL: Project on reduction of the eutrophication of the Baltic Sea today (PRESTO)
Financial source: CBC Baltic Sea Region
Lead partner: Union of the Baltic Cities, Environmental and Sustainable Development Secretariat/City of Turku
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Belarusian water utilities in Baranovichi, Grodno, Molodechno and Vitebsk as well as Belarusian technical universities (2.524.573)
Total budget: 4.553.950
Duration: 09/06/2011 – 08/03/2014

Content: PRESTO increases the competence of operating staff of the waste water treatment plants, plant designers and trainers of future wastewater engineers by organizing courses on modern waste water treatment, showing practical examples of reconstruction projects in their different stages and giving opportunities for exchange of information between waste water treatment specialists from Belarus and EU-member countries.

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: ''Support to Kyoto Protocol Implementation'' (SKPI)
Financial source: ENPI East,
Contract implementation period: 01/09/2009 – 01/12/2011
Budget: 4.787.000 EUR
Contractor: ICF, Hogan and Hartson and TUV Rheinland.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection, Sakharov Institute (Minsk).
Action location: Belarus.
Content: the project supports the fight against climate change through the extension of the flexible mechanisms of the UNFCCC/Kyoto Protocol as well as the development of appropriate mitigation and adaptation strategies. Covers Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Russia, Ukraine, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan, Uzbekistan.

REGIONAL: "Water Governance for the Western EECCA countries"
Financial source: **TACIS Regional 2005**
Contract implementation period: April 2008 – April 2010
Budget: 2.088.840 EUR
Contractor: *(to be updated)*
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Western EECCA countries
Content: the project aimed at addressing issues of critical conditions of water infrastructures both at central Government level, by means of support in the preparation of financing strategies in the water sector and at the level of the municipalities and utilities by providing capacity building for the improvement of the service delivery.

REGIONAL: "Supply of equipment – South Caucasus Kura River Basin – Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia and Water Governance in the NIS countries – Belarus, Moldova, Ukraine"
Financial source: TACIS 2008, 147-780
Contract implementation period: 2009 – 2010
Budget: *(to be updated)*
Contractor: *(to be updated)*
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: *(to be updated)*
Content: . *(to be updated)*

NATIONAL: "Support to Sustainable Development and Environment"
Financial source: TACIS, NAP 2005/158128
Contract implementation period: 2008 – 2010
Budget: 1.500.000 EUR.
Contractor: Joint management with UNDP.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Belarus.
Content: The project aimed at supporting environment and sustainable development at the central and local levels, through promotion of (a) institutional capacity, (b) local communities support and public awareness.

REGIONAL: "Building Capacity for Strategic Environmental Assessment (SEA)"
Financial source:
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 573.355 EUR

Contractor: Joint management with UNDP.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Belarus.
Content: Project is aimed at enhancing national expert and institutional capacity for SEA and environmental conventions in Belarus.

NATIONAL: "Sustainable Development at Local Level"
Financial source: TACIS 2002
Contract implementation period: 2008 – 2010.
Budget: 1.134.113 USD
Contractor: Joint management with UNDP.
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Belarus.
Content: . *(to be updated)*

REGIONAL: "Trans-boundary river-basin management, phase II in Ukraine and Belarus" (Pripyat River)
Financial source: RAP 2003
Contract implementation period: 2004-2007
Budget: 1.847.875 EUR
Contractor: *(to be updated)*
Beneficiaries: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection.
Action location: Belarus and Ukraine
Content: Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Protection

Enterprises, SMEs, Investment Facility, Macro-Financial Assistance



Summary: The EU activities in the private sector support, SME and enterprise policy are mainly implemented through regional projects.
No direct national allocations are provided for this sector. The most important private sector support initiative has originated from the **Eastern Partnership Small and Medium-size Enterprise (SME) Flagship Initiative**. The SME Flagship Initiative has been designed to address constraints that, at varying degrees, affect the development of SME's in EaP countries (inadequate SME business regulatory framework, lack of inter-regional and international networking mechanisms, lack of effective advisory services for SME's, lack of funding due to under-developed capital markets and a financial sector still in transition). In order to address these issues, a 3 level action has been designed.
The first project is the **East-Invest Programme** (EUR 7 mio for all 6 EaP countries) aimed at developing networking, B2B, technical assistance for internationalisation of SMEs. The project was launched in March 2011 for 36 months.
This programme is completed by a EaP **Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) / Business Advisory Services (BAS) programme** implemented by the EBRD (former Turn-Around Management / BAS programme). As of January 1, 2012 TAM has changed its name to Enterprise Growth Programme to better reflect its objectives and clientele. The EGP/BAS Programmes provide for individual technical assistance helping enterprises adapt to the demands of a liberal market economy and seeking to develop capacities of local SMEs as well as local business advisory services. The technical assistance will be individual, tailored on the needs of each enterprise accepted for assistance. EUR 10 Mio are allocated for all 6 Eastern Partner countries for activities to be implemented during 36 months, starting from December 2010.
The third component of the action is the **SME facility**. The Facility aims at offering a wide range of financial services and products to SMEs and financial intermediaries throughout the region, increasing the availability of long-term funding to the SME sector. Still, as this component is implemented by the European Investment Bank, which has no mandate for Belarus, the SME facility is **currently unavailable for the Belarusian applicants**.

As for strengthening public-private dialogue, lately, an initiative has been channelled though the Ministry of economy aimed at developing a system of **Public-Private partnership** in Belarus. The possible EU assistance in this sector is being considered.

A range of business support actions is being financed though the EU **CBC programmes**. Currently 13 CBC projects for an amount of EUR 19,4 mio are being realized, mainly focused on support of SMEs, innovation, youth entrepreneurship.

INITIATIVES

- **The First Economic and Financial Technical Dialogue between the EU and Belarus took place in Minsk On 6 October 2011.**

Representatives of the Directorate General for Economic and Financial Affairs of the European Commission visited Belarus to meet with experts of the Ministry of Economy, **Ministry of Finance**, Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the National Bank of the Republic of Belarus.

The aim of the technical level dialogue was to exchange information on recent macroeconomic developments and policy challenges and the structural economic reform strategy both in Belarus and the EU.

Visiting officials made presentations on trends in the EU economy and policy response to the crisis in the euro area public debt markets. Belarus' officials presented overviews of the macroeconomic situation in Belarus, recent monetary and fiscal policies, the privatisation and economic liberalisation agenda and spoke about the current and prospective impact of the Customs Union of Belarus, Kazakhstan, and Russia on EU-Belarus trade and economic relations.

The EU side underlined the importance for Belarus of adopting bold macroeconomic adjustment policies (especially in the fiscal, monetary, exchange rate areas) to overcome the country's vulnerable balance of payments position and bring inflation under control and to press ahead with economic liberalisation and structural reforms to complete the transition towards a fully-fledged market economy. On the macroeconomic side, special concern was expressed about the recent acceleration in inflation and on the need to reunify and normalise the foreign exchange market. Regarding the structural reform agenda, EU representatives underlined the need to continue to make progress with privatisation and enterprise restructuring, price liberalisation, and financial sector reform, including the reduction of the weight of bank lending under government programmes. The combination of these measures should help the Belarusian economy overcome the current crisis while improving its efficiency and competitive position on world markets.

Next meeting is scheduled to be held in Brussels on November 21, 2012.

- **Support to the development of Public-private partnership (PPP) system in Belarus.**

Belarusian government has been promoting PPP issue since 2008, when an inter-ministerial working group for PPP was founded under the authority of the Ministry of Economy. The group was aimed to develop a PPP law. Liberalisation directive N4 – main liberalisation programming document adopted in 2010 – as well underlined the priority to develop PPP. In this way, there is a clear political will to develop PPP framework, accompanied by a lack of experience and understanding of the process.

An initial TAIEX workshop on PPP was requested by the Ministry of Economy and held by the EU experts on the 24.06.2011. A subsequent TAIEX Expert mission on concept of creation of National Agency on Private Public Partnership took place in November 2011. In parallel, the Ministry of Economy approached the UNECE which has standing tools for PPP country assessment and the Delegation of the European Union to Belarus in order to request including PPP development in one of the EU action programmes for Belarus.

A project to Support the Implementation of PPP in Belarus is being developed in joint management with UNDP under the Capacity Development Facility within the AAP 2010 provided the approval of the programme by the European Commission.

- **The Eastern Partnership - Platform 2 on Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies** established:

- Panel on Small and Business Enterprise (SME)

On the 7th of May 2010 the platform "Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies" agreed on establishing a panel Small and Medium Enterprises. The SME Panel is to exchange information on SME policy approaches in the EU and in the Partner Countries; address a common project on enterprise policy performance; accompany the implementation of the SME Flagship Initiative and organise business to business contacts.

- Panel on Trade and Trade Related Regulatory Approximation, linked to DCFTAs (Trade panel)

On the 9th of November 2009 the platform “Economic Integration and Convergence with EU Policies” agreed on establishing a Panel on Trade and Trade Related Regulatory Cooperation - linked to DCFTAs. The aim of Trade Panel is to exchange information, experiences and best practices in the development and implementation of measures by participants, to promote approximation to the EU acquis in the different areas and to promote consistency of measures taken by Eastern Partner countries at national, bilateral and regional level.

- **Macro-Financial Assistance (MFA)**

The initial proposal for Belarus for €200 Mio was authorized by the Economic and Financial Committee on 21 October 2009. Nevertheless, the request was suspended due to political situation.
Theoretically, the EU could consider a new request for MFA from Belarus. This would only be possible if Belarus engages in a new programme with the IMF.

- **Economic Forum – Conference on macro-economic issues.**

Initially scheduled for the 14.04.2011, cancelled due to political situation.

- **Neighborhood Investment Facility**

Belarus is a beneficiary of the €12 million regional project **"Financial Sector Institution Building and Crisis Response"** approved by the NIF in 2010.

In July 2010 a provisional approval of the NIF Board was given to the following project for which Belarus is also a potential beneficiary:
Green for Growth Fund for the Eastern Neighborhood Region (Armenia, Azerbaijan, Georgia, Republic of Moldova, Ukraine and Belarus): provided that the Fund is effectively created and the KfW (Lead Finance Institution), the German Government and potentially EIB, EBRD, and the Austrian Development Bank participate, the NIF would contribute with EUR 12 million (10 million as equity participation and 2 million for technical assistance) to this fund. This project under provisional approval may be submitted for final approval to the NIF Board in due time according to its maturity.

UNDER PREPARATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

REGIONAL: East Invest (253271)
Financing source: East Regional AP 2009 (019-654)
Contract implementation period: 26/10/2010 - 26/10/2013 (36 months)
Budget: 7.000.000 EUR (Action grant to any entity except International Organisations)
Contractor: EUROCHAMBRES
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry, Vladimir Sobolev
National Focal Point for Belarus , sobolev@cci.by
Action location: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova, Ukraine, Austria, Belgium, Cyprus, Czech Republic, Denmark, France, Germany, Greece, Hungary, Italy, Latvia, Lithuania, Poland, Portugal, Romania, Slovakia, Slovenia, Spain, Sweden, Netherlands, United Kingdom, Turkey Content: Has been designed as a regional investment and trade facilitation program, by developing a network between EU and EaP countries SMEs and SMEs organisations, with the objective to strengthen the public – private dialogue, facilitate exchange of best practices and interconnections between SMEs from EU and from EaP, develop capacities of EaP support organisations to provide quality services for SMEs.
Actions For SMEs:

- Training on EU legal framework and on internationalisation activities
- Study visits to selected trade fairs in the EU
- Business to Business meetings – pre-arranged meetings in the framework of trade fair visits in the EU
- SME coaching facility - tutoring on going international

Actions For Business Support Organisations (BSOs)

- Train the trainers – dedicated training seminars on EU legal framework (acquis) and internationalisation
- Twinning – long term technical cooperation
- East-Invest Academy – training dedicated to BSO executives
- Exchange of BSO Executives – traineeships

- EaP Investment Forum – focusing on concrete projects and investment policies
- Annual Conference - partners networking forum

REGIONAL: Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) / Business Advisory Services (BAS) (256-700)
Financing source: TAM / BAS Programme in Eastern Partnership Countries (RAP 2010 part 3) (022-573)
Contract implementation period: 22/12/2010 - 22/12/2013 (36 months)
Budget: 10.000.000 EUR (Operations in joint management – EU single donor)
Contractor: EUROPEAN BANK FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: SMEs, Business consulting organisations.
Action location: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine.
Content: The EBRD promotes economic transition in its countries of operation through the EGP and BAS Programmes. The EGP and BAS are complementary schemes aimed at helping enterprises adapt to the demands of a liberal market economy.
Enterprise Growth Programme (EGP) projects: The main objective is to support economic reform by assisting small and medium sized enterprises to transform themselves. The program assists enterprises to operate successfully and help to develop new business skills at the senior management level so as to be able to survive and compete in market economies. Approximately 30-35 projects will be implemented throughout the region, each project lasting 12 and 18 months.
In **Belarus**, EGP (ex-TAM) has been actively implementing projects with Yalina and Science Soft since the summer of 2011 (both companies located in Minsk). With one more company currently being considered by EGP (SU-1 Belbud); completion of the work plan for Belarus is on track.
Business Advisory Services (BAS): BAS assists individual enterprises to engage with local consultants on narrowly-based, specific projects with a rapid payback. The supported projects typically last around four months and assist enterprises to develop and grow by enhancing their competitiveness, marketing and financial management, quality management systems and strategic business planning. Approximately 520 BAS Projects will be implemented throughout the region providing flexible grants (up to 75 percent of net project cost) capped at EUR 10,000.

REGIONAL: Enterprise Policy Performance assessment of the Eastern Partner Countries (256-583)
Financing source: ENPI EAST RAP 2010 (022-266)
Contract implementation period: 15/12/2010 - 15/06/2012 (18 months)
Budget: 416.000 EUR (Operations in joint management – multi-donors)
Contractor: OECD. The project is implemented by the OECD, in cooperation with the European Training Foundation, the EBRD and EC (DG ENTR).
Beneficiaries: In Belarus: SME development
Action location: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Ukraine, Republic of Moldova.
Content The specific objective of the pilot project is to support enterprise policy development in the Eastern Partnership countries through regional policy dialogue on SME policy development and an assessment of enterprise policy performance in EaP Countries. The assessment will be made against the principal of the Small Business Act, developed by the European Commission.
Specific activities: Nomination of national SME co-ordinators by every country of the region to contribute to the evaluation exercise and support stocktaking missions to the countries of the region. Evaluation of the status of enterprise policy development in each of the participating countries based on relevant SME policy assessment frameworks.
Establishment of Enterprise Policy Working Groups to provide an overview of all activities and to contribute to the policy evaluation exercise and will prepare a set of recommendations for policy improvements for all countries. The Working Groups will report back to the SME panel under the Eastern Partnership Platform 2 on 'Economic integration and convergence with EU policies' and will meet back-to-back to Panel meetings. A supplementary policy seminar over several days will be conducted towards the end of the evaluation exercise.
A report Enterprise Policy Performance Assessment of the Eastern Partnership countries will be prepared.

REGIONAL: CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: BSR QUICK - Qualification, Innovation, Cooperation and Keybusiness for Small and Medium Enterprises in the Baltic Sea Region
Financing source: CBC Baltic sea region 2007-2013
Contract implementation period: 17.09.2009 - 16.12.2012
Budget: 3,688,000 EUR, Belarusian contribution: 310,000 EUR: Brest Department of Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (€100,000), Minsk Department of the Belarusian Chamber of Commerce and Industry (€100,000), Brest State Technical University (€60,000), Minsk Regional Executive Committee - Economy Department (€50,000)
Contractor: Lead partner: Hanseatic Parliament (DE)
Beneficiaries: SMEs
Action location: Poland, Lithuania, Estonia, Finland, Norway, Denmark, Sweden, Latvia.
Content: SMEs represent 99% of all enterprises in the BSR and provide up to 70% of all jobs, being an important economic but also socio-cultural factor for sustainable development of the region. SMEs present the biggest potential for the employment and job creation in the BSR also in future. QUICK aims at unleashing this potential to its full extent by addressing the challenges undermining the competitiveness of the BSR SMEs.No

REGIONAL: CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: IBI Net - "Intercountry Business Incubators' Network"
Financing source: CBC Baltic sea region 2007-2013
Contract implementation period: 17. 09. 2009 - 16. 06. 2012
Budget: 677,050 EUR (Belarusian contribution: 100,450 EUR)
Contractor: Riga Planning Region
Beneficiaries: Scientific and Technological Park BNTU "Polytechnic" (100,450 EUR)
Action location: Latvia, Poland, Belorussia, Sweden, Germany and Norway
Content: The project 'Intercountry Business Incubators' aims at establishment and strengthening of the transnational business incubators' network. The network will be a forum for sharing the knowledge and technologies among partners from Latvia, Poland, Belorussia, Sweden, Germany and Norway.

REGIONAL: CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: Baltic COMPASS - Baltic COMPASS - Comprehensive Policy Actions and Investments in Sustainable Solutions in Agriculture in the Baltic Sea Region
Financing source: CBC Baltic sea region 2007-2013
Contract implementation period: 17. 09. 2009 - 16. 12. 2012
Budget: 6,678,210 EUR (Belarusian contribution 370,000 EUR)
Contractor: Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences
Beneficiaries: Central Research Institute for Complex Use of Water Resources (84,713 EUR); RUE Scientific-practical center of the National academy of sciences of Belarus (284,713 EUR).
Action location: Baltic Sea Region
Content: Baltic COMPASS project has grown out of a large number of international projects in the field of landuse, agriculture, water and environment related to the protection of the Baltic Sea. Specifically, Baltic COMPASS is a response to the need for a transnational approach to reduce eutrophication of the Baltic Sea and contribute in adaption and implementation of the HELCOM Baltic Sea Action Plan (BSAP).

REGIONAL: CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: EGOPRISE - E-GOvernment solutions as instruments to qualify the public sector for the specific needs of small and medium sized enterPRISEs (SMEs) in the rural BSR
Financing source: CBC Baltic sea region 2007-2013
Contract implementation period: 17. 09. 2009 - 16. 12. 2012
Budget: 2,546,000 EUR
Contractor: Zweckverband elektronische Verwaltung Mecklenburg-Vorpommern (DE)
Beneficiaries: Academy of Public Administration under the aegis of the President of the Republic of Belarus (70,000 EUR).
Action location: Baltic Sea Region
Content: The overall aim of Egoprise is to turn public administrations in rural BSR areas to more business oriented service suppliers, to relieve SMEs from administrative burdens, improve their access to information & qualified staff and as a consequence to increase attractiveness of rural areas as places to live, work & invest in.

REGIONAL: Innovation networking for economic development - CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-021
Financing source: K (2008) 8113
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 212,341 EUR (Belarusian contribution 83,709 EUR)
Contractor: Lithuanian innovation centre, LT
Beneficiaries: Grodno state university named after Yanka Kupala, Polotsk state university, Innovation association Akademtechnopark
Action location:
Content: Building a cross-border learning community network of innovation practitioners, workshops.

REGIONAL: Youth social enterpreneurship in Lithuanian and Belarusian border region - ENPI-CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-058
Financing source: K (2008) 8113
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 83,777.00 EUR (Belarusian contribution 14,608 EUR)
Contractor: National development institute, LT
Beneficiaries: Youth entrepreneur support and development centre, BY
Action location:
Content: training sessions for youth consultants, youth creativity camp.

REGIONAL: Youth enterpreneurship encouragement in Kaunas and Minsk regions - ENPI-CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-026
Financing source: K (2008) 8113
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 199,396.60 EUR (Belarusian contribution 57,978 EUR)
Contractor: Kaunas regional development agency
Beneficiaries: Youth public association "ABC entrepreneurship", BY
Action location:
Content: Establishment of Entrepreneur Encouragement Frameworks, trainings.

REGIONAL: Fostering capacity for tourism development in Latgale-Utena-Vitebsk cross-border region ENPI-CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-098
Financing source: K (2008) 8113
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 1,994,565.60 EUR (Belarusian contribution 493,391 EUR)
Contractor: Latgale planning region, LV
Beneficiaries: Polotsk city excecutive committee, BY
Action location:
Content: Joint tourism grading monitoring system, joint marketing campaign, tourism events, development of tourism support infrastructure.

REGIONAL: Stimulation of cross-border tourism in Lithuania and Belarus by improving the accessibility and attractiveness of cultural-historical heritage in Rokiškis and Postavy regions - ENPI-CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-003
Financing source: K (2008) 8113
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 596,652.07 EUR (Belarusian contribution 279,299 EUR)
Contractor: Rokiškis district municipality administration, LT
Beneficiaries: Postavy regional excecutive committee, BY
Action location:
Content: rastauration, renovation of cultural heritage.

REGIONAL: Cultural heritage preservation and promotion in Rezekne and Braslav regions - ENPI-CBC LV/LT/BY LLB-1-102
Financing source: K (2008) 8113

Contract implementation period:
Budget: 1,289,783.90 EUR (Belarusian contribution 94,008 EUR)
Contractor: Rezekne city council, LV
Beneficiaries: Culture department of Braslav regional excecutive committee, Braslav regional museum association, BY
Action location:
Content: handcraft industry research, renovation of Rezekne park, cultural events.

REGIONAL: Science and experience for business - ENPI-CBC PL/UA/BY PBU/0151/10
Financing source: K (2008) 6411
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 238,284.75 EUR (Belarusian contribution 44,914 EUR)
Contractor: Rzeszow regional development agency
Beneficiaries: Grodno state university named after Yanka Kupala, BY
Action location:
Content: improvement of conditions for business development and cooperation of entrepreneurs from the SME sector.

REGIONAL: "Communication without limits" - creating cross-border network of tourist information - ENPI-CBC PL/UA/BY PBU/0170/10
Financing source: K (2008) 6411
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 297,000.00 EUR (Belarusian contribution 167,763 EUR)
Contractor: Suwalki chamber of agriculture and tourism
Beneficiaries: Grodno regional executive committee, State union of tourism and sport, BY
Action location:
Content: creation of cross-border network of 13 tourist information centres.

REGIONAL: Bicycle route - Traces of Bug river secrets - ENPI-CBC PL/UA/BY PBU/0252/10
Financing source: K (2008) 6411
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 297,171.34 EUR (Belarusian contribution 98,066 EUR)
Contractor: Public higher school named J.P II in Biala Podliaska
Beneficiaries: Brest university of Alexander Puszkin, BY
Action location:
Content: increasing of cross-border tourism potential, bike paths.

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: EU Enlargement and foreign direct investments in border regions to the NIS
Financing source: TACIS CBC SPF Programme
Contract implementation period: 31.12.2006 - 31.12.2007
Budget: 370,000 EUR (EU contribution: 282,943 EUR)
Contractor: German-Belarusian House, DEU
Beneficiaries:
Action location: Poland, Ukraine, Belarus.
Content: promoting cross-border area with special regards to attracting foreign direct investments and to supporting the local SMEs. The FDI-Project was focused on local economic development, reduction of the risk of instability in the border region triggered by different economic development of Poland as a new member of the EU and negative impacts for the new Schengen border:
The three regions - Lubelskie Voivodeship (PL), Volyn Region (UKR) and Brest Region (BY) - meet together at the Bug River but complete against each other for businessmen and investments. The French-German border region PAMINA across the Rhine River - where the lead partner (DWH) is coming from - did the same. However, since the 90'ties the global competition of regions and cities on investors increased remarkable and

therefore the PAMINA border region decided to co-operate and to promote PAMINA as one location for two markets together. A good example for creating a common Polish-Ukrainian-Belarusian cross-border market for promoting it as "Business Valley Bug"

Outcomes:

- An Investment Brochure BUSINESS VALLEY BUG - a guide for businessmen and investors
- A common Internet portal www.business-valley.org
- Establishment of so-called “BUG Marketing & Communication Agencies” (BMCAs) for promoting the Business Valley BUG before European and global markets also after project’s end. The BMCAs serve companies and investors as central support units to ease their access to business information and markets cross-border line. Further they support a positive image about the region as interesting economic space on the Bug River
- Development of a special working group “Co-operation between organisations and different economic branches” within the Euroregion Bug Association for involving the needs of local SME into the cross-border co-operation
- Visit of firms of Baden-Württemberg to BUSINESS VALLEY BUG and Company Matching Event with local firms
- Mailing actions to 5.000 companies, dissemination of the marketing materials

REGIONAL: Country Economic Study

Financing source:

Contract implementation period:

Budget: 200,000 EUR

Contractor:

Beneficiaries:

Action location:

Content: financed project (DG ECFIN): focus on the effects and policies to response the crisis in Belarus, Russia and Ukraine. Consultants from Belarus : IPM Research Centre.

Health and Social Protection



Summary:
Within the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument the European Commission has a programme called 'Good health for all' which addresses the lack of health professionals in many developing countries. Healthcare systems can be severely weakened by a lack of key personnel and, in some countries, such shortages are making it difficult to provide adequate or equitable services. 'Good health for all' also aims to keep a balanced approach between prevention, treatment and care, with prevention as a key priority, acknowledging that its effectiveness is increased when linked with treatment and care. The programme will improve access to healthcare and tackle problems related to common poverty-related diseases, particularly HIV/AIDS malaria and tuberculosis. There will also be a focus on neglected and emerging diseases that could threaten developing world populations. The programme will also provide support to improve sexual and reproductive rights.

INITIATIVES

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP: Within the thematic platform on Economic integration and convergence with EU policies, in the framework of the Eastern Partnership, the Commission proposes:

- Multilateral cooperation on health topics (sector reform, HIV/AIDS and tuberculosis, approximation and implementation of EU practices). Possible partnership arrangements between partners' authorities and the Commission and EU Member States to strengthen institutional capacity and enhance preparedness to tackle the cross-border spread of diseases.

UNDER PREPARATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

'NSA capacity building for access to HIV-AIDS prevention, treatments and care in ENPI' (DCI-SANTE/2010/) – **Project title:** Good health for people in prison: raising access to qualitative HIV prevention, treatment, care and support services for the HIV-positive imprisoned and released in Belarus (260-509)
Lead partner: Republican non-governmental organization "Belarusian PLWH Community"
Contract implementation period: 31.12.2011 – 28.02.2014 (26 months)
Budget: 403.440,00 EURO, EU contribution - 310.648,00 EURO
Summary: To raise quality of life of those living with HIV imprisoned and released through forming a stronger NSAs coalition providing services to HIV-positive imprisoned and released in Belarus by advocacy and leadership skills education, raising awareness and training of the target groups, networking and partnerships, dialogue with Belarusian governments and the authorities on HIV/AIDS policies towards prevention, treatment, support and care.
Specific objective 1: to strengthen the advocacy skills of NSAs to lobby effectively for improved access to HIV/AIDS treatment, care and support, especially for people living with HIV among prisoners
Specific objective 2: to implement HIV prevention among the imprisoned and released and run actions providing access to qualitative support, treatment and care to people living with HIV/AIDS (PLWHA) in prison and released
Specific objective 3: to strengthen partnerships and coordination among NSA in Belarus providing services to PLWH imprisoned and released.
EC manager: Vladislav Mikhnevich (Minsk)

CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: ImPrim - Improvement of public health by promotion of equitably distributed high quality primary health care systems
Lead partner: Swedish Committee for International Health Care Collaboration
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: Belarussian medical academy for continuous education (BelMAPO) 58.500,00, Gomel Regional Health Care Authorities 187.200,00,
Total budget: €2.644.200,00
Duration: 17. 09. 2009 - 16. 12. 2012
Summary: In the Baltic Sea Region (BSR) large health inequalities exist among population groups. These inequalities have a relationship to social problems. Adding to health inequality is the spread of communicable diseases such as TB and HIV/AIDS. Furthermore the EU Green Paper on Territorial Cohesion emphasises as one of the main obstacles for territorial cohesion the uneven access to health services, which is, according to the EU Green Paper on its Workforce for Health, partly caused by maldistribution of staff between urban and rural areas within countries as well as the brain drain between different countries. In order to address these problems members of the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS) initiated the ImPrim project.

LLB-1-017 **Close Cooperation - a Key to Improve the Quality of Life for People with disabilities**
Budget: €130.744
Lead partner: Lithuanian Welfare Society for Persons with mental disabilities.
Action overall objective: increased opportunities for inclusion of people with mental disabilities, their parents, legal carers and family members into society through the strengthening of institutional cross-border cooperation between project partners.

LLB-1-099 **Enhancement of Education, Health and Social Development for Joint Community Target Groups in Cross Border Regions of LLB**
Budget: €1,689,250
Lead partner: Latgale Region Development Agency, LV
Action overall objective: to increase cross-border region's LV, LT, BY population involvement in healthy lifestyle activities leading to more integrated and healthy society.

LLB-1-090 **Development of Morden Breast Cancer Awareness, Prevention and Early Detection and Management Measures in the Border Regions of LLB**
Budget: €1,932,361
Lead partner: Daugavpils Rural Amalgamated Council, LV
Action overall objective: to increase awareness and improve prevention, early diagnostics and treatment system of breast cancer in border arrears of BY, LT and LV.

PBU/0068/10 **Didactic infrastructure modernisation for Poland Belarus cooperation in aid to the handicapped**
Budget: €781.654
Lead partner: Hajnowsky County. Partner: Regional Executive Committee in Kamenets.
Action overall objective: Creating the possibility of cross-border cooperation between the two centers that support children and young people with mental disabilities by providing appropriate conditions for learning and education.

PBU/0101/10 **Development of cooperation of medical institutions of the Polish-Belarusian borderland in the scope of immunotherapy for the pulmonary tuberculosis**
Budget: €1,139,151
Lead partner: Tuberculosis and Lung Diseases Specialist Health Maintenance Organisation in Bialystok.
Action overall objective: Establishment and constant development of a cross-border cooperation between Polish and Belarusian partners that will result in: increase of tuberculosis detection rate, improvement of treatment quality, exchange of knowledge and experience between partners.

PBU/0102/10 **Development of cooperation in order to improve health safety of the population of the Polish-Belarusian borderland**
Budget: €1,317,973
Lead partner: Autonomous Public Health Organisation in Bialystok.

Action overall objective: Creating conditions for development and improvement of doctor's skills in the sphere of digital diagnosis. Increase patient safety by reducing adverse effects of the conducted examinations.

PBU/0103/10 **Development of cooperation in order to improve histopathological diagnostics of breast cancer and colorectal cancer in the Polish-Belarusian borderland**
Budget: €1,329,771
Lead partner: M. Sklodovska Curie Bialystok Oncology Center
Action overall objective: Establishing long-term cooperation between health organisations of the Polish-Belarusian borderland in order to increase the detection rate of breast cancer and colorectal cancer and to increase treatment quality of these diseases.

See

- Local and Regional Development (NSA/LA)
- Post-Chernobyl activities
- Global Fund to fight AIDS, TB and Malaria
- International Centre for Thyroid Gland (implemented by UNDP, Tacis AAP2005-2006)

PAST PROJECTS

IBPP: **Piloting and development of occupational therapy in 2 social care homes in Belarus**. Public organisation 'Zenevox Iniciatyva Psichiatrijoje' €159,674.

* PL/BY/UA **Biomechanical research and elaboration of the method of improvement of children gait from Podlasie and Grodno area,** €102 000, ends **16.12.08.** Lead partner in Poland: Polish Academy of Sciences. B. Partner: Grodno Centre of energy saving (which has a special unit for bio-mechanical issues).
The aim of the project is research and practical steps on rehabilitation of children gait apparatus in cross-border areas: analysis of components which influence on pathology level, assessment of the diagnostics and treatment methods used in Poland and in Grodno, common elaboration of prophylactics, diagnostics, and rehabilitation of children gait apparatus, generalization of the information about dysfunction of children gait apparatus in view of setting up the coordination between different institutes.

*LV/LT/BY - **Establishment of Belarusian-Latvian Cooperation in the Field of Children's Palliative Care**
€123,098
The main objective of the proposed project is to strengthen and promote development of palliative care services in Latvia and Belarus by means of establishing cooperation between Belarusian and Latvian palliative care institutions in the field of methodology, normative regulation and education.
Impact: (up till now)

- 1 round-table meeting with Latvian partners in Belarusian Children's Hospice
- A traineeship (1 week) for Latvian palliative care specialists.
- Web-page of the joint project you can see on the web-site http://www.hospice.by.
- Data about children suffering from incurable diseases and congenital malformations in Belarus within last 10 years are almost collected.

Final report and final invoice were presented on 7 May 2009.

* LV/LT/BY **- Hereditary cancer knowledge exchange, awareness raising and management in the border region of Belarus, Latvia and Lithuania**; €586,089. Lead Partner: Riga Hospital; B. Partner: Grodno Region. Approved by Belarus.
The objectives of the project are: I. Develop and strengthen cross-border cooperation, information and experience exchange between Pauls Stradins Clinical University Hospital (PSCUH) and Grodno Region Clinical Hospital (GRCH) about hereditary cancer. Raise awareness on hereditary cancer as manageable and curable disease among wider society of medics and general population in the involved regions. II. Establish hereditary cancer prevention and management base in BY, by establishing Grodno hereditary

cancer centre (GHCC) within the GRCH system. Train its staff, develop IT system and obtain proper diagnostics, care and management laboratory equipment. Begin HC consultation and management activities in the GHCC of BY. III. Locate high HC risk individuals in the general population, through HC patient hospital, registry and population screening pilot projects (PP) and molecular investigations in Belarus.

Social protection and social inclusion studies for Belarus, Moldova and Ukraine

DG EMPL, €40,000. In early 2008, DG EMPL launched a continuation of the series of studies on social protection and social inclusion (http://ec.europa.eu/employment_social/spsi/enlargement_en.htm) four calls new calls for tender for Belarus, Ukraine, Moldova, Plus a synthesis report for the three countries (+ technical assistance to improve the comparability between the 3 country studies). The study is finalized and available http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?langId=en&catId=750&newsId=662&furtherNews=yes.

Local and Regional Development



Summary

The **AAP 2011 "Support to local and regional development in Belarus"** (EUR 13,47 mio) has been identified and formulated in cooperation with the Ministry of economy of Belarus and other stakeholders as a response to the increasing role that the government of Belarus foresees for the regions in the main national programming documents (Programme for social-economic development 2011-2015). Regional disparities existing in Belarus are to a high extent determined by the peculiarities of the economic and industrial structure of the country inherited from the soviet economy. The AAP 2011 is called to intervene on all the three levels: creating a legal framework, formulate policy recommendations and improve the national regional development planning on the **national level**; identify development priorities for 4 Belarusian regions (Mogilev, Gomel, Brest and Vitebsk), including the elaboration of regional development plan and providing capacity building on the **regional level**; promote the participation of local community organizations in development and implementation of social-economic priorities on the **local level**. The third component is planned to be implemented in cooperation with the UNDP, taking into account the success of the UNDP's Area Based Approach already realized in the concerned regions. It will also provide micro-grants for local initiatives.
The Commission decision was adopted on the 28/11/2011.The Financing agreement on AAP 2011 was signed by the Belarusian side on the 04.08.2012.

Another programme supporting local and regional development is the **EaP Territorial Cooperation Support Programme** (EUR 18 Mio for all EaP countries). The territorial cooperation projects under the Regional Indicative Programme ENPI East for the financial years 2011 – 2013 are currently been identified. The projects aim to **replicate the model of cross-border cooperation programmes** implemented at the external borders of the EU, to the borders between partners, without the involvement of any EU Member State. Project priorities should include the promotion of economic and social development in regions on both sides of common borders, promotion of local cross border "people-to-people" actions. The programme is divided into 2 components: capacity building to potential applicants and the grant programme itself.
The Commission decision was adopted on the 28/11/2011. Service procurement notice to implement the 1st component of the programme was published in March 2012. The contract signature is expected ny the end of 2012.

European Parliament Pilot Regional Development Programme (PRDP) aims at building up knowledge and experience of regional policy in the framework of the strategic partnership between the Commission and third countries and to co-operate with and assist international organisations in building new regional partnerships in this field. Built on the cohesion policy model, the PRDP will provide extensive support and an enhanced dialogue process with all of the EaP countries. Planned implementation is planned to commence in 2012, with significant interventions planned for 2013.

INITIATIVES

UNDER PREPARATION

NATIONAL: AAP 2011 - Support to regional and local development in Belarus (22824)
The overall concept of the regional and local development consists of **supporting and interlinking regional development at central, regional, and local level**. This concept is based on the declaration that support to regional development is stated as one of the national priorities in Belarus for the programming period 2011-2015.

Overall objective: to promote sustainable regional development in Belarus.

Specific objectives: - to develop the competences and capacities of the Belarusian national, regional and local authorities in regional development management.

- to enable citizens at local level to take an active part in decision making concerning the socio-economic and cultural development of their communities.

The programme foresees **3 components in 4 pilot regions - Mogilev, Gomel, Brest and Vitebsk**.

Components 1 and 2 –Technical assistance element – 2,300,000 EUR (Service contract)

- Legal and institutional needs assessment of the current regional development framework;
- Policy recommendations on regional development planning and management;
- Drafting of a single methodology for national regional development planning including legal, budgetary and fiscal impact;
- In-depth trainings for the officials, seminars and study visits;
- Assistance in mid-term and long term financial forecasting and resource distribution;
- Creation of a feedback mechanism through institutional strengthening of the information collection and analysis system on the basis of the Scientific Research Institute of Economy (SRIE).
- Assessment of weaknesses and gaps of the current institutional framework and subsequent implementation;
- Identification of major counterparts needs and development priorities;
- Capacity building and training of the counterparts in four selected Oblasts of Belarus;
- Assistance to elaborate ad hoc studies to identify regional development priorities;
- Elaboration of the comprehensive plan for regional development, including financing planning.

Component 2 – Regional pilot projects – 6,000,000 EUR (Service/supply contracts)

- Implementation of pilot projects in each of four regions to support regional development plan priorities.

Component 3 – Local level - 4,400,000 EUR (Contribution agreement with UNDP)

- Roundtables at regional and local level to familiarise with the project, its modality and terms of partnership;
- Establishment of partnerships with local/regional stakeholders;
- Social mobilisation for creation of support structures (community organisations);
- Training/study visits and other support for institutional capacity building;
- Participatory planning and mainstreaming of community plans;
- Micro-project proposal preparation, appraisal, approval and funding of community projects (under seed grant);
- Implementation and handover of community projects;
- Documentation on best experiences and policy recommendation;
- Raising public awareness on cross-cutting issues.

Status: Commission decision adopted on the 28/11/2011. Financing Agreement signed by the Ministry of Economy on the 04.08.2012. Contracts to implement the 1st and the 3rd Components of the programme are expected to be signed by the end of 2012.

REGIONAL: EaP Territorial Cooperation Support Programme

The main focus of this proposed intervention is to support the creation of effective and operational territorial cooperation programmes between border regions of the EaP countries, modelled after the existing cross-border cooperation (CBC) programmes. The intervention requires the implementation of two components:

Component 1 (EUR 6 mln): a capacity building component, targeted at reinforcing the capacities of local and regional authorities to effectively manage as well as optimally participate in future CBC programmes between EaP countries envisaged in this intervention;

In 2012, only component 1 (capacity building) will be addressed and € 6 M allocated to its implementation. During the formulation phase, the potential division of funds between the services contract and the possible regional call for proposals will also be decided upon.

Component 2 (EUR 12 mln): aiming to establish three EaP CBC programmes:

- Ukraine and Belarus programme;

- Georgia and Armenia programme; and,
- Georgia and Azerbaijan programme.

For 2012 and 2013, € 6 M per year have indicatively been allocated to the territorial cooperation sub-priority of the ENPI Regional East Envelope (i.e. € 12 M in total). These funds will be allocated to component 2 of this intervention (the 3 EaP CBC programmes). The exact financial allocations among the three proposed bilateral programmes will be determined at a later date, based on further assessments and consultations with stakeholders.

Status: Commission decision adopted on the 28/11/2011. Service procurement notice was published In March 2012. Deadline for submission of applications: 25.04.2012. The contract signature is expected by end of 2012.

REGIONAL: European Parliament Pilot Regional Development Programme (PRDP) aims at building up knowledge and experience of regional policy in the framework of the strategic partnership between the Commission and third countries and to co-operate with and assist international organisations in building new regional partnerships in this field. The– Built on the cohesion policy model, the PRDP will provide extensive support and an enhanced dialogue process with all of the EaP countries. Planned implementation is planned to commence in 2012, with significant interventions planned for 2013.

The regional development programmes can contribute to addressing economic imbalances and disparities between regions that undermine the capacity of a country's economy as a whole. The current pilot programmes will help members of the Eastern Partnership identify appropriate structures and activities to address these challenges, within their territories and if appropriate cross-border with their neighbours in the region.

CURRENT PROJECTS

REGIONAL: Sustainable Urban Development Project (within the CIUDAD Programme).
Financing source: ENPI INTERREGIONAL
Budget: €498.640
Contractor: Executive committee of the city council of town of Ukrainka (Ukraine).
Beneficiaries: Counterpart Creative Center (Ukraine); Ukrainian Small Cities Association; Foundation in Support of Local Democracy - Regional Centre from Lublin (Poland); Novolukoml City Council (Belarus); Student Youth Council (Georgia).
Duration: 36 months
Content: project involving partners from Belarus are selected after CfP in December 2008. The aim of this project is to contribute to sustainable local development in depressed small towns in Belarus, Georgia and Ukraine, and to boost their competitiveness with the help of Polish and Ukrainian expertise in strategic planning and local development.
Factsheet on the project is available at:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/documents/12._lot_2_enpi_east_-_ukraine_en.pdf
Project website: http://psmr.com.ua/en

Cooperation in Urban Development and Dialogue (CIUDAD). CIUDAD runs from 2009 to 2012 and co-finances 21 local grant projects in the Neighbourhood's South and East. Budget: 14 million EUR. The projects reflect the overall objective of CIUDAD and in particular the following themes: Environmental Sustainability and Energy Efficiency; Sustainable Economic development and reduction of social disparities and Good governance and sustainable urban development planning. Partnerships are made up of consortia of organisations including local authorities, universities, NGOs and other organisations working on urban sustainable development issues; both from the EU and ENPI partner countries. The launching conference for the programme took place in Brussels in June 2010.
More on CIUDAD on Aidco website:
http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/regional-cooperation/irc/inter_dialogue_en.htm
CIUDAD Website: http://www.ciudad-programme.eu/grant_country.php?lang=1&country_id=3

PAST PROJECTS

REGIONAL: "Unknown Europe"- tourism infrastructure development in the cross-border area of Augustov Canal and the Neman River
Financing source: CBC PL/BY/UA
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 665,000.00 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries:
Action location:
Content: The immediate objectives of the project are: 1) to create conditions to foster tourism and economic development of the target area of "Unknown Europe" as well as utilizing current resources of the Grodno Region, a part of "Unknown Europe" so far; 2) to promote the cross-border area and its nature and cultural potential; 3) to create base for trainings and organizational structures which will implement and monitor high quality trainings for organizers and instructors of active tourism.

REGIONAL: Uniform information system for interaction of the population and authorities of cross-border region
Financing source: CBC PL/BY/UA
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 110,000.00 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries: Brest Transboundary Center (attached to the Brest Executive Committee
Action location:
Content: The project is aimed at strengthening of the cooperation between frontier regions population, local authorities and cities by means of joint informational base creating and rendering free access to the given base which will reduce the lack of information in the cross-border region. The project realization will result in frontier regions competitiveness increase based on the extend of region's accessibility level, citizens' legal awareness, border crosser mobility and investment attractiveness of the region. Realisation of the project will contribute to the creation of cross-border informational and communication technology which facilitate «People to people» contacts aimed at information and experience interchange owing to information getting availability.

REGIONAL: Development of trans-border tourism in the Bialowieja Forest region
Financing source: CBC PL/BY/UA
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 179,981 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries: Euroregion Bielarovski Forest.
Action location:
Content:
- Creating / building of trans-border bicycle route with numerous branches, objects of the small infrastructure of the route (marking, information tables, sign-posts).
- Issuing of information and promotional publications – trans-border maps and guide-books, postcards (in total 10 titles).
- Institutional strengthening and trainings of staff dealing with tourism in the regions and in the National Park "Białowieska Puszcza".
- Common marketing activities – joint participation in tourism fairs, visit of journalists.
- Creating an Internet website about tourism in the Bialowieza Forest Region.

- Transfer of Polish experiences on the Belarusian side about standardization and quality of services in the tourism business (trainings and working out tourism development strategies for Belarusian partners).
- Promotion of cultural heritage landscape in the tourism development through: issuing the publication "Each place tells its history", issuing the guide-book "Land of Opened Shutters", training course for representatives of commune offices about protection of monuments, cultural landscape and current legal regulations in this matter.

The realization of the project will contribute to the development of tourism in the border area, increasing of the number of tourists visiting the region, what will create base for growth of social – economical activity of the inhabitants.

REGIONAL: Crossing the border, discovering the culture, enjoying the nature of the Western Dvina/Daugava river space

Financing source: CBC LV/LT/BY
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 499,810 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries: Vitebsk Region, City of Novopolotsk Executive Committee.
Action location:
Content: The main objectives of the project are: 1. Launching a comprehensive tourism planning for the Polotsk and Vitebsk tourist's zones. 2. Institution building and organising an efficient tourism services system (strengthening capacities of the Polotsk Tourist Information Office, establishment of 7 Tourist's Informational Units in districts of Polotsk and Vitebsk, facilitating cooperation between the local concerned authorities, establishment of "BELLA DVINA" Network). 3. Capacity building of the local authorities in the field of tourism services development 4. Making the Bella Dvina space visible

REGIONAL: Exciting cycling net in the Baltic Country of Lakes
Financing source: CBC LV/LT/BY
Contract implementation period:
Budget: 89,600.00 EUR
Contractor: Latvian office of Euroregion "Country of Lakes
Beneficiaries:
Action location:
Content: Background: As tasks of tourism development are in the sphere of common ecological, economic and social interests of Euroregion "Country of lakes", rural and active tourism is considered to be one of priority directions in cooperation to be developed. Therefore, the political Council of the Euroregion has initiated a project creating and promoting a cycling net of 45 routes in the territory of Baltic Country of lakes.
Objective: To contribute to development of active tourism and healthy lifestyle of the population of Latvia, Lithuania and Belarus and to increase the awareness about the possibilities offered by the Baltic Country of Lakes, thus adding value to the existing tourism products and attracting more tourists to the territory of Euroregion „Country of Lakes".
Outcomes: Updating of information on 45 cycling routes. Public involvement campaigns. Common marketing activities. Improving HR capacity of Euroregion tourism specialists by introduction of GPS. Putting up common design signs, small-scale infrastructure elements and improvement of the cycling route quality.
Target groups: National and international tourists keen on active tourism; TIC specialists of Euroregion municipalities; Local inhabitants (land owners, tourism businesses, students etc.)
Cross-border impact: The network within Euroregion strengthened on different levels. Administrative capacity of project partners improved in implementation of Structural Funds. Baltic Country of Lakes marketed as a well-known tourism destination in Europe. Contribution to sustainable development of active tourism and healthy lifestyle of the population of LV,LT,BY ensured.

REGIONAL: "Country of Lakes" - management and Marketing of Rural Tourism
Financing source: CBC LV/LT/BY
Contract implementation period: 2000
Budget: 200,000 EUR
Contractor:
Beneficiaries:
Action location:
Content: development of effective information exchange within the Euroregion; capacity building of local personnel in the management and marketing of sustainable tourism on a cross-border and inter-regional level)
Project implemented. Final report received. Problems with German tax authorities. Under solution, audit report received. Payment being proceeded.

Prevention of Natural and Man-Made Disasters



Summary:
The civil protection / disaster preparedness and management system in all of the ENPI countries is a relatively young system, since only after the collapse of the Soviet Union the focus was shifted from civil defence towards civil protection, from highly militarized defence measures towards civilian disaster management activities. This shift has been confirmed by the adoption of national laws, government decrees and ministerial instructions. The overall objective of the EU initiative is to contribute to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern Partner Countries and to protect the environment, the population, the cultural heritage, the resources and the infrastructures of the region by strengthening the countries' resilience, preparedness and response to man-made and natural disasters. More specifically, the programme aims at contributing the development of the Partner countries' civil protection capacities for disaster prevention, preparedness and response and at bringing them closer to the EU Civil Protection Mechanism while also improving cooperation among themselves.

INITIATIVES

EASTERN PARTNERSHIP Flagship initiative: Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters

Recent years have seen a significant increase in natural and man-made disasters, in particular floods, fires, health risks (epidemic, pandemic), maritime pollution — resulting in loss of lives, destruction of economic and social infrastructure and cultural heritage, and displacement of people. Disasters can in a matter of days have dramatic negative effects on economic growth potential as well as on the environment. Climate change is further aggravating this negative trend. This initiative will aim to prevent, prepare for and respond to disasters affecting the partner countries and the EU, in view of the joint commitment to greater cooperation on disaster management. The co-operation will contribute to social and political stability in the region and as support countries' efforts to adapt to climate change. The objective is to strengthen disaster management capacities at local, regional and national level, by establishing effective cooperation between the EU (the Community Civil Protection Mechanism) and the partner countries — and also among the partner countries themselves. National civil protection authorities are the main players. However, enhanced co-operation with other stakeholders is also essential, including civil society organisations, international and donor organisations, and key local and national players. A short to medium term objective is to negotiate and conclude agreements on a formal co-operation framework.

UNDER PREPARATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

Eastern Partnership Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to Natural and Man-made Disasters-PPRD East (CRIS: 2008/020-528). The project is financed under the ENPI Regional East Action Programme 2009, total budget: € 5,988,000.

Objectives of the project: The overall objective is to contribute to the peace, stability, security and prosperity of the Eastern ENPI region and to protect the environment, the population, the cultural heritage, the resources and the infrastructures of the region by strengthening the countries' resilience, preparedness and response to man-made and natural disasters.

Purpose: the project purpose is to develop and reinforce the capacity for disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and response in the Eastern ENPI region by strengthening capacities at local, national and regional level, and developing an effective cooperation in this field between the EU and the Partner Countries themselves, as an instrument of political and social stability.

Programme for the Prevention, Preparedness and Response to natural and man-made Disasters (PPRD East), a Flagship Initiative of the Eastern Partnership, was launched in Brussels on 26 January 2011.

Partner countries: Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Georgia, Moldova and Ukraine
Duration: January 2011 – December 2014 (48 months)
Contractor: Eptisa in consortium with International Centre for Emergency Techniques (ICET; Netherlands), The Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation (ITC) of the University of Twente (Netherlands), REC Caucasus, Institute of Mining and Geology (PJSC Girhimprom; Ukraine) and Parsons Brinckerhoff (UK).

Expected results:

- Better knowledge of risk exposure, preparedness and response capacities in the region;
- Strengthened prevention and preparedness mechanisms at the local, national and regional levels;
- Improved capacity for a coordinated, effective and efficient disaster response;
- Improved coordination between the Eastern ENPI Civil Protection Authorities and the EU Civil Protection Mechanism.
- Improved information and awareness of populations regarding risk exposure, prevention and response. A more participative, stakeholder driven, approach to solving the region's natural and man-made disaster,

The main project office is located in Kiev at the Eptisa office and two further branch offices in Tbilisi and Baku exist. The project website will be launched under the address www.euroeastcp.eu.

The project team, led by Mr Jevgeni JUTKEVITS, has been instructed to contact the Delegations before starting their first fact-finding missions to the Partner Countries in the coming months and we understand that in some cases this has already been done, even before sending this introductory message.

PAST PROJECTS

BY/LAT/LV - **"Strengthening Regional Capabilities for Prevention and Response to Chemical Emergencies with Threat of Transboundary Effects in the Region Bel-Lat-Lit"**, €1,136,020

The project will cover four main thematic issues: interagency communication and cooperation network; joint training and professional development; enhancement of technical capacities; information campaigns and PR.
The Lead project partner will be Ministry for Emergency Situations of the Republic of Belarus (MES). Other partners: State Fire and Rescue Service of Latvia, Fire and Rescue Department under the Ministry of the Interior of the Republic of Lithuania, Grodno and Vitebsk Regional Directorates of the MES, and Special Response Team of the MES. Expected results: established regional mechanism of interaction in case of chemical emergency; joint staff training; improvement of technical capacities. Long-term impacts: improvement of chemical and ecological safety level in the near-border region Belarus-Latvia-Lithuania, promotion of sustainable development of the region, enhancement of local population safety and ecological well-being of the region.

Norms and Standards



Summary:
There are two projects in the field of norms and standards: energy efficiency (AAP2010) and food safety (AAP2009).

The upcoming project on energy efficiency (AAP 2010, 9 m EUR) will support current efforts of the Republic of Belarus in energy saving measures by strengthening the participation of local government, public and private sectors and civil society at large; and support improvements in energy efficiency testing infrastructure in accordance with international and EU practices. The big part of the project is a supply contract within which Belarus will be provided a wide range of testing equipment to measure energy efficiency of Belarus-made industrial goods, which will support Belarusian export to the EU.

Within the context of the overall support programme for the development of a Quality Infrastructure environment in Belarus, food safety was selected as a first priority within the areas of mutual interest given the wide spectrum of issues that need to be dealt with. This approach is fully consistent with the overall strategic approach of the Belarusian government, and in view of securing ownership of the project; it was designed bearing in mind the National Complex Programme on Standardization of Food Products, developed as a plan of action for the State Committee on Standardization (Gosstandart). The selection of food safety as a target for EC support calls for an integrated approach, implying that support must be focused not only on the quality infrastructure, but also on the development of capacity of the food processing sector.

INITIATIVES

First round of exploratory talks on standards took place on 23 March 2009 in Brussels.

Cooperation with Food and Veterinary Office
Several FVO missions to Belarus took place in 2009, 2011 and 2012 in order to evaluate the operation of controls over the production of milk meat products for human consumption destined for export to the European Union.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NATIONAL: AAP 2009 Support to quality infrastructure in Belarus – food safety (163-691)
Financing source: ENPI 2008/20658
Contract implementation period: 23/12/2011-23/08/2014
Budget: 8.5 MEUR Service (6 MEURO + Supply 2.5 MEURO)
Contractor: AFNOR Groupe (France)
Beneficiaries: Belarusian State Committee for Standardisation of the Republic of Belarus

The project is structured into four components whose envisaged results are as follows:

Reform of the Belarusian Accreditation system – Creation of the Belarusian National Accreditation body, as a separate legal entity within Gosstandart, to be subjected to peer assessment in order to be admitted as a member by the relevant European and international organisations, namely EA – European Co-operation for Accreditation and ILAC – International Laboratory Accreditation Conference. The scope of this component is a necessary condition for further interventions that might be anticipated in the 2010 programme aimed at

continued support to the Quality Infrastructure and which could include conformity assessment and market surveillance.

Establishment of the Belarusian Market Surveillance system – Development and step-wise implementation of a concept for the Belarusian Market Surveillance system that match the requirements of the EU member states' systems. To that extent, the model to be developed and implemented must, both: (i) satisfy the essential requirement of institutionally separating: the services in charge of market surveillance and the services of the specification and monitoring of mandatory requirements on products and services; (ii) imposing a strict separation between the sampling, product testing and penalty imposition functions. In its turn, this would allow for a multiple purpose usage of the existing testing laboratory network, under strict condition of the avoiding conflict of interests.

Improvement of the Laboratory Network – Strengthening of the technical competency, services provision capacity and management practices of three laboratories, respectively under Gosstandart (BelGIM's Laboratory for the Testing of Food and Agricultural products), Ministry of Agriculture and Food, and Ministry of Health, in order to convert them into National Reference Laboratories for the testing of residues and contaminants in food products, capable of being accredited in accordance with the international standard ISO/IEC 17025:2005 ("General requirements for the competence of testing and calibration laboratories") and satisfying the applicable EU requirements in respect of bottled water, fish, meat and milk exportable products[1](including newborn and infant food).

Capacity building of the bottled water/fish/meat/milk processing industries – Improved capacity of water/fish/meat/milk processing industries achieved through increased role of the professional organisations representing the bottled water, fish, meat and milk processing industries and increased awareness within the industries on food safety requirements. To that end, an explanatory Handbook for the bottled water, fish, meat and milk processing industries on the adoption of ISO 22000:2005, GMP and GHP will be prepared and widely disseminated with the assistance of participating professional organisations.

NATIONAL: AAP 2010 "Support to Belarus in the field of norms and standards related to energy efficiency of consumer goods and industrial products" (280-415)

Financial source: ENPI/2010/022-041
Contract implementation period: 2012-2015
Budget: 9.000.000 EURO (2.9 MEURO for Service Contract, 4 MEURO for Supply Contract and 2 MEURO – Contribution Agreement with UNDP for Component 4 of the Programme)
Contractor: *GIZ International Services, Germany*
Beneficiaries: State Committee for Standardisation of the Republic of Belarus
Action location: Belarus.
Content: support of the active standardization process in the field of energy efficiency and savings.

The project is structured into four components whose envisaged results are as follows:

Component 1 – Strengthened status of the Belarusian EE testing laboratory network

- To review the current situation, identify bottlenecks and draw a strategy for ensuring the full-scale insertion of EE testing/monitoring/inspection/auditing into the encompassing Belarusian national conformity assessment framework.
- To assist a full-fledged field application of the EE methodologies developed under EU- and other donor- funded technical assistance programmes/projects in Belarus by creating, under the aegis of Gosstandart, a national focal point (or "centre of excellence") endowed with the capacity of identifying top level institutional and individual specialist know-how in the various EE supportive technical domains.

- To assess the EE testing activities under Gosstandart and develop an action plan for the accreditation by foreign accreditation body(ies) of selected testing laboratories.
- To develop the master plan of a media campaign aiming at extending to the 2011/12 period the Belarusian "2010 Year of Quality" event, with a focus on driving the message "EE as an integral attribute of real product quality".

Component 2 – Implementation of the EE-related standardisation programme

- To regularly monitor, in the course of the project implementation period, progress in the development of the EE-related standards to be programmed into the Fourth National Energy Saving Programme.
- To assess the pro-users & consumers information content of the new adopted standards with a view to maximising societal impact of the EE-aimed normative work.
- To assist Gosstandart in extracting maximum benefit from its recently acquired status of affiliate member of the European standardization organizations, the European Committee for Standardisation and the European Committee for Electrotechnical Standardisation.
- To support consumer rights organisations in promoting EE as a factor of improved quality of life, fostering the development of high visibility public campaigns addressing environmental and sustainability values for raising levels of exigency as regards industrial production.

Component 3 – Upgrading the Belarusian EE-related testing capacity

- Itemised verification, unit costing for budgetary confirmation purposes, and approval of the lists of equipment submitted to the project under Gosstandart supervision, for supply to central laboratories and regional inspection structures for EE purposes.
- Preparation of the terms of reference for the required EE-related equipment procurement tendering processes.
- Development, in close association with the competent services of Gosstandart, of a capacity building plan to be administered in conjunction with the supply of equipment.

Component 4 – Developing an integrated approach to a stepped-up energy saving programme

This component will be implemented by UNDP based on its experience with the community Area-Based Development (ABD) approach, which involves stakeholders at the local level through a participatory process.

To prepare and implement education and awareness actions to increase knowledge and capacities within the community on EE, conservation and renewable energy.

To establish a competitive grant scheme for EE projects to be implemented in the selected regions.

To create green jobs in the regions where the action will take place – a significant proportion of the people who will be employed in the initiatives funded by the grant scheme will be representatives from the local communities.

To monitor the honest measuring to identify the actual impact of the entire community's energy balance and on the community's stakeholder interest will be measured.

PAST PROJECTS

Exploratory mission on enterprise regulation and the progressive harmonisation of norms and standard assessment in Belarus, IBF (Belgium), €110,000

Nuclear Safety



Summary:
Within the framework of TACIS programme, a team of European experts from Germany, Sweden and France carried out an Exploratory Mission in Minsk in October 1996. Based on this, the regulatory assistance projects started to be implemented in Belarus. The support is primarily directed at transferring regulatory methodology, including the formulation of legislation and the development of regulatory documents, providing support in conducting licensing assessments for specific Industrial Projects and supplying assistance in the overall safety assessments of specific installations, as well as institutional support to the Regulator and its Technical Support Organisation. During the INSC (Instrument for Nuclear Safety Cooperation) Exploratory Task Force Mission in Minsk from 13 to 16 October 2009 it was highlighted that the cooperation with Belarus under TACIS was mainly related to radiation protection as well as emergency response and preparedness. The decision of Belarus to build a first NPP with two units significantly changes the basis for cooperation.

INITIATIVES

UNDER PREPARATION

NSAP 2009: Assistance to the Regulatory Authorities. BY3.01/09: Development of technical cooperation in nuclear safety in the field of assistance to the Regulatory Authorities. €2.2 million (€1.6 million for Component A + €0.6 million for Component B)
Financial Agreement was signed 23.12.2010.
Component A: Regulatory Assistance / Support to technical safety organizations
Component B: Provision of training in the use of accident analysis codes and code transfer.

CURRENT PROJECTS

NSAP 2007

"Children of Chernobyl – People to people exchange programs for Chernobyl children and continued support in Ukraine and Belarus for health programs to help the victims of the accident with the Chernobyl reactor." (Nuclear Safety AP 2007 budget)
The project is administered by UNICEF. Total budget: €1.500.000 (incl. €644,000 for Belarus). The project is launched in December 2009. For details see the section "Post Chernobyl Activity".

INSC Action Programme 2008 – Belarus Transfer of European Regulatory Methodology and Practices to the Nuclear Safety Authorities of Belarus BY3.01/08 Institutional and technical cooperation with GOSATOMNADZOR to develop its capabilities on the basis of transferred European safety principles and practices.
Financing source: INSC Action Programme 2008
Contract: 2011/261601
Contract implementation period: 29/03/2011-28/09/2013
Budget: 2.2 MEUR (Service 1.3 MEURO + Supply 0.9 MEURO)
Contractor: RISKAUDIT IRSN/GRS International, FR.
Beneficiaries: GOSATOMNADZOR, BY

Component A - "service part"

- Review of the needs of the Regulatory Authority

- Development of legislative framework in the field of nuclear safety
- Licensing support in the field of nuclear safety for the development of the Regulatory body and its functions
- Training of the regulatory authority personnel
- Creating of technology for training on nuclear safety
- Support to equipment procurement
- Participation of the Ministry for Emergency Situations in International Conferences
- Assistance to MES in the definition of annual Action Programmes, defining the needs and establishing the methodology for the projects included in the Action Programmes

Component B - "procurement part"

- The objective of this project is the procurement of modern devices which will significantly enhance the technical equipment capacity of the Ministry's units and specialists in the field of radiation safety.
- Definition of the equipment and devices will be subject to a dedicated technical specification for procurement purposes after clear identification of the needs, cost estimates and review the added value that this equipment would offer to the Beneficiary. Audits will be conducted to check that material and equipment are used for their intended purpose.

See also in Border Management and Customs two projects on <u>Combating illicit trafficking of nuclear and radioactive material</u>

PAST PROJECTS

NSAP 2006

***Nuclear Safety Regional Action Programme** 2006: Assistance to update the nuclear safety system and readiness to nuclear safety emergencies situations. Approved on 16.10.07 by Belarus Council of Ministers Budget for Belarus: €500,000

NSAP 2005

Tacis Nuclear Safety Action Programme 2005 - Belarus
<u>Transfer of European Regulatory Methodology and Practices to the Nuclear Safety Authorities of Belarus</u>
Budget – €1.000.000
- Regulatory Assistance and Technical Support in the Field of Radiation Protection and Emergency Preparedness - Tacis Project B3.01/05 (BE/RA/04) Contract 2006/116-788
The Tacis project BE/RA/04 represents the fourth phase of the transfer of European regulatory methodology and practices to the nuclear safety authorities of Belarus, especially to the Ministry for Emergency Situations (MES), including the Department for Nuclear and Radiation Safety (Gosatomnadzor), the Institute for Retraining and Professional Development, the Republican Special Team of the MES, the Scientific and Research Institute of Fire and Emergency Studies of MES, the Gomel Engineering Institute, the Command and Engineering Institute, and the Emergency Management Response Centre of MES. Its wider objective is to continue the support and strengthening of the national nuclear safety and radiation protection regulatory system in Belarus.

<u>Purpose:</u> The project aims to enhance the skills and effectiveness of the Regulatory Body as a whole, to improve the legal and procedural base for a competent and efficient regulatory body and to implement licensed-based regulatory practices in Belarus.
NSAP 2004

<u>Regulatory assistance to Belarus in the field of nuclear safety and radiation protection including radiological emergency preparedness</u>, Contract signed on 13.7.06 with Riskaudit, France, €999,999.

Project authority: Riskaudit IRSN-GRS International; Ministry of Emergency Situations. **Completed in July 2008.**

The project aims at transferring to Belarusian authorities the methodologies and practices in the field of nuclear and radiation safety as used in EU countries. The Ministry on Emergency Situations (MES) of Belarus is the project beneficiary. It's Department for Supervision of Industrial and Nuclear Safety and several institutions, together with the Republican Centre for Radiation Control and Monitoring (RCRCM, Ministry for Environment) participate as end-users of the project results.

Project includes assistance in the fields of:

- legislation and regulation;
- radioactive waste management including education and training;
- emergency preparedness including planning and training;
- implementation of methods for measurements of transuranic elements in soil;
- nuclear material transport with the emphasis to illicit trafficking;
- support to equipment procurement for the Upgrading of the Equipment for Radiation Environmental Monitoring and for Elimination of Radiological Accidents;
- participation of the Ministry on Emergency Situations in international conferences;
- assistance to MES in the definition of annual Action Programmes, defining the needs and establishing the methodology for the projects included in the Action Programmes.

Post Chernobyl Activities



Summary:
EU funding is specifically targeted to Chernobyl-affected areas, where exposure to radiation not only did adversely affect the health of the population, but also damaged severely the mostly agriculture-based economy of the region. An integrated approach, in line with international donors, is enhanced for the rehabilitation of the living conditions in the area including through the relevant TACIS funded relevant ISTC projects. This approach addresses the public health sector, environment, economical development, dose measurement, radiological protection, pedagogy etc.. Actions are focused on enhancing capacity of local communities to develop sustainable social and economic initiatives and to allocate resources efficiently; and of the population to cope with the effects of contamination and develop initiatives for the most vulnerable categories.

The experience for actions in the Chernobyl-affected areas shows that the problem of rehabilitating the afflicted regions includes both issues of radiation and medical protection and solution of the demographic, social and psychological problems, the development of infrastructure and the restoration of economic potential. Therefore the assistance bases itself on an integrated approach, which includes NGOs and local authorities.

INITIATIVES

UNDER PREPARATION

CURRENT PROJECTS

PAST PROJECTS

<u>"Children of Chernobyl – People to people exchange programs for Chernobyl children and continued support in Ukraine and Belarus for health programs to help the victims of the accident with the Chernobyl reactor</u>." (Nuclear Safety AP 2007 budget) Finished 15.07.2011

The project is administered by UNICEF. Total budget: €1.500.000 (incl. €644,000 for Belarus). The project is launched in June 2009.

Specific areas of interventions:

- Capacity building of national professionals through training, development of methodological guidelines and study tours;
- Supply of medical equipment for Children's Hospitals, Maternity Houses and Youth Friendly Health Centres in Chernobyl affected areas;
- Informational campaign (distribution of materials on IDD, BF, Better Parenting Package, YFHS), press-conferences;

The geographic focus of the project is in the three oblasts (Gomel, Mogilev and Brest) most affected by the Chernobyl disaster in Southern and South-Eastern Belarus. The concrete districts and cities are

selected in accordance with the demand of the Ministry of Health, the National Programme on Demographic Security for 2007-2010 and are in line with the joint Plan of the Baby-friendly Hospitals assessment and development of Child Friendly City Initiative. The activities are planned in the following districts and cities: Mogilev oblast (Byhov, Kostukovichi, Slavgorod, Cherikov), Gomel oblast (Chechersk, Buda-Koshelev, Lelchitsi) and Brest oblast (Pinsk, Drogichin, Luninets), covering a population of 362.9 thousand of which aged 0-17–70.4 thousand.
The project is a complementary to the curremt Expanded BFHI (Baby Friendly Hospitals Initiative) project in collaboration with the Ministry of Health and the Practical-Research Center "Mother and a Child", with the IDD prevention through USI project and with the “Better Parenting/Preschool Education” project under the Ministry of Education and National Institute of Education, Protection of the adolescent’s health with the Ministry of Health and the Practical-Research Center "Mother and a Child" and Child Friendly Cities Initiative development.

Project "Combat the negative effects of the Chernobyl disaster in Belarus", United Nations Development Programme Office in Minsk, UNDP (NAP 2005 for Belarus, budget €2,640,974)
The overall objective of the project is to address the socio-economic difficulties in the Chernobyl-affected areas and support the most vulnerable layers of the population.

The project activities were focused on the following issues:

- to support provision of medical care services and monitoring to the most vulnerable categories of Chernobyl-affected population suffering from thyroid pathologies and associated endocrinological diseases through scientific and research work, diagnostics and treatment interventions, as well as training and education;
- to promote the enhancement of the livelihoods of rural Chernobyl-affected communities to develop and implement sustainable social and economic initiatives through community mobilization, development of participatory planning and improved social delivery, as well as economic development opportunities in a holistic integrated approach. Also called **Area-based Development of the Chernobyl Affected Districts in Belarus.** Budget - €1.303.059.

The project was aimed to promote the enhancement of the livelihoods of rural Chernobyl-affected communities to develop and implement sustainable social and economic initiatives through community mobilization, development of participatory planning and improved social delivery, as well as economic development opportunities in a holistic integrated approach.

CORE. Public University on health protection in regions suffered from Chernobyl disaster, Belarusian Association of UNESCO Clubs, budget: €120,000 (reprogrammed in NAP 2005 due to late registration by Belarus) (Registered in Belarus as "Health Lifestyles Information and Education Programme)
NAP 2006 project - Information and Education Programme on Healthy Lifestyles for Regions affected by Chernobyl Disaster

Project “Public University on Health Protection in regions suffered from Chernobyl disaster” will promote the activities focused on creation of a system of training youth and children trainers-multipliers in the area of health protection in the regions (Bragin, Slavgorod, Chechersk and Stolin) suffered from Chernobyl disaster.
The feasible system of education on the consequences of Chernobyl disaster and health care for people living in suffered areas will be created. The activities related to the multiplier groups of youth and students, their training as trainers, application of obtained skills as well as constant work of 4 local resource centers on project problems in 4 involved regions will be carried out. The target group of the project is the population of the contaminated areas with strong emphasis on youth.

CORE. Strengthening Smallholder's agricultural activities on radioactive contaminated lands of the Bragin district, Formation pour l'épanouissement et le renouveau de la Terre, Budget: €145,600 (reprogrammed in NAP 2005 due to late registration by Belarus)

The aim of the project is to create gradually, together with public and private, local, national and international participants, the conditions and means for the sustainable and profound development of territorial processes in which the rural population will improve its living conditions through the development of private agricultural activities. It will be achieved through technical, informational and methodological support to rural producers' local initiatives for improving potato, vegetable, milk and meat productions in accordance with radiological and economic criteria. The project is planned to be implemented during two years in five villages of the Bragin district, with the participation of 150 rural families. The participants will be proposed to estimate on small private experimental plots the efficiency of various innovative agricultural techniques, opening perspectives for their use in the future. Throughout the project, support given to the participants' initiatives (individual or common) will progressively build and strengthen the rural population's role and participation in local development strategies.

CORE - Improving of Living Conditions of Population Effected by Chernobyl Disaster, Hilfswerk Austria, budget €157,626 (reprogrammed in NAP 2005 due to late registration by Belarus)

The project' aims at the improvement of living conditions of terminally ill people due to the Chernobyl disaster and their families through the provision of mobile home care services in the Republic of Belarus (districts of Bragin, Chechersk, Slavgorod, Stalin). These services are an extension of the Belarusian Children's Hospice in cooperation with local medical institutes and include training of personnel, transfer of know-how and the creation of a local and national network of medical institutes. The proposed project is directed to the development of paediatric palliative services to provide complex medical, social support to hopelessly ill people, especially children, who are proved to have a serious disease due to the Chernobyl catastrophe.

Transport



Summary:
The transport sector is inherently international. On the one hand, the external dimension needs to be well integrated into the EU's overall transport policy; on the other hand, transport policy needs to be part of the broader relationship with third countries and organisations.

The EU member states have a common interest in developing international regimes which guarantee high levels of safety and security and high standards of service and of environmental and social protection. The EU's relations with partners under the European neighbourhood policy (ENP) and Russia are of particular strategic importance. Transport cooperation and convergence of legislation, based inter alia on Action Plans under ENP is helping to establish the necessary interconnection of the major transport axes taking into account the economic, environmental and social dimensions. The EU is also supporting a number of regional initiatives reaching beyond the ENP area, particularly in frameworks such as TRACECA or the Baku Initiative where Belarus is an active participant.

INITIATIVES

The technical talks with Belarus are part of the exploratory talks that the Commission (TREN) has been carrying out with all the neighbouring countries since early 2007 (as announced in the Communication COM (2008) 32 of 31/1/2007). These talks aim at exploring ways to improve transport connections between the EU and its neighbours through focusing efforts on several transnational corridors, by bringing closer together infrastructure development and policy dialogue and strengthening cooperation frameworks in view of effective implementation. The technical talks have been successfully completed and a technical paper was prepared by TREN and Belarus experts.
As a next step the technical paper needs to be made operationalised in terms of concrete actions. A series of expert meetings will be scheduled. The results should feed into an action plan now that Belarus is eligible for ENP funding.

Belarus was also invited to participate in the work preparing the **Northern Dimension Partnership** on Transport and Logistics. Belarus will be a party to the Partnership, which should be up and running on 1/1/2010.

28.10.2009: A Memorandum of Understanding setting out the modalities of the Northern Dimension of Partnership (Transport and Logistics) has been transmitted for signature to the Minister of Transport and Communication (28.10.2009). Signed by Minister on 18 November 2009

A regional study on future High Speed Train needs to be launched in the framework of the Northern Dimension Partnership for Transport and Logistics. It can also cover a feasibility or pre-feasibility study for a high-speed train connection between Minsk and Vilnius.

UNDER PREPARATION

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CURRENT PROJECTS

CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: EWTC II - East West Transport Corriodor II - a green corridor concept within the Northern Transport Axis approach
Lead partner: Region Blekinge (SE)

Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: International Academy of Transport 80.000,00, Glubokoe Council of Deputies 50.000,00, Vitebsk Regional Administration Committee on Economy 30.000,00
Total budget: €5.992.400,00
Duration: 10. 06. 2009 - 09. 09. 2012
Summary: The East West Transport Corridor (EWTC) links Minsk,Vilnius, Klaipeda/Kaliningrad with Denmark (Esbjerg) via south Sweden and with Germany via Sassnitz. It includes several TEN-T ports, road and railway links, parts of the Nordic Triangle and Corridor IX B/D in Lithuania/Kaliningrad region. The EWTC II project intends to develop the hubs as growth centres, strengthen railway concepts, improve accesses to hubs and increase human capabilities. The ambition is also to develop an innovative testing ground for a green corridor concept as described in the EU "Freight Logistics Action Plan" that could serve as a best practise case in the European perspective.

CBC Baltic Sea Region - Project title: Baltic.AirCargo.Net - Improvement of the air cargo transport sector by service oriented ICT-methods and processing logistic network
Lead partner: Wismar University of Applied Sciences: Technology, Business and Design (DE)
Belarusian partners and budget per partner in EUR: State-owned Enterprise BelAeroNavigation "BELAERONAVIGATSIA", Airport Grodno 110.000,00, Yanka Kupala State University of Grodno 190.000,00
Total budget: €3.073.000,00
Duration: 11. 06. 2010 - 10. 09. 2013
Summary: Legal background is EU Strategy for the Baltic Sea Region, i.e. to make the Baltic Sea Region an accessible and attractive place, and to improve internal and external transport links (p 49). Transport issues are especially important for BSR since the distances internally and to the rest of Europe are very long and the conditions for traffic are difficult. In the times of economic slowdown, the pace of change in the transport sector is increasing. Project addresses to: 1) Structural challenges. 2) ICT challenges. 3) Political challenges.

PAST PROJECTS

"Integration of Transport Networks and Border Crossing Points Ukraine and Belarus"
No 2005/017-099 Tacis Cross Border Co-operation Action Programme 2005 – part II. Budget €2 million.
Contractors: Louis Berger SAS (FR), KL Law Firl (GR) and SYSTRA (FR).
Project duration: 15.01.2009 – 14.12.2010

Since independence, capital investment in infrastructure, public utilities and services is considered minimal, primarily as a result of a lack of structural reforms, which have curtailed investment flows in general, and in transport in particular. As a result, the transport system is characterised by a backlog of investments, lack of modernisation and commercialisation. It will be up to the proposed project, to enhance the policy dialogue in a way that: there is achieved increased political willingness to provide a conductive framework for private sector participation and commercialisation in transport, and promote transport sector modernisation and hence, efficiency

Expected results

a) Study on situation at borders encompassing the various modes of transport (rail, road, sea, waterways, air, intermodal)
b) Set of scenarios on the potential trade and people flows for each relevant border crossing points
c) Review on border crossing control procedures, following the new status of partner states as EU neighbours; set of recommendations on their improvement
d) Proposing a list of measures, according to various scenarios, with priorities and time frame, compilation of the Immediate Action Plan
e) Designed tool in order to allow national authorities to monitor and adjust the list of measures and priorities.

PART 3 REFERENCE INFORMATION

Key Agreements with Belarus



- "Establishment Agreement" between the Republic of Belarus ant the European Commission: signed on 7.3.2008 and ratified on 6.1.2009 (signature by the President of Belarus of the law on ratification of the agreement)

- Framework Agreement between the Government of the Republic of Belarus and the European Commission on defining the status and conditions for the technical aid the EU will provide as part of the ENPI. Signed on 18.12.2008 and fully ratified by November 2009. Ratification of the agreement was notified to the Commission on January 14, 2010.

- National Indicative Programme for Belarus has been extended for 2007-2011. National Indicative Programme 2012-2013 adopted in 2011.

Key EU Strategy Documents on Belarus



Country Strategy Paper 2007-2013 and
National Indicative Programme 2007-2011
National Indicative Programme 2012-20113

Country Strategy Paper (CSP) for Belarus covers the period 2007-2013, and is accompanied by the National Indicative Programme (NIP) for the period 2007-2011. Assistance to Belarus during this period will be provided under the new European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI), which is established to promote the development of an area of prosperity and good neighbourliness between the European Union and the partner countries covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP). The NIP covers only support through the national ENPI envelope, and does not represent a programming document for the other instruments available for Belarus such as the thematic programme on democracy and human rights.

The long-term goal of the EU is for Belarus to become a democratic, stable, reliable, and increasingly prosperous partner with which the enlarged EU will share not only common borders but also a common agenda driven by shared values.

Belarus, while covered by the European Neighbourhood Policy, does not participate fully in it. EU-Belarus Relations are governed by successive Council Conclusions stating, for example, that contacts "will be established solely through the Presidency, SG/HR, the Commission and the Troika" and that "Community and Member States' assistance programmes will support the needs of the population and democratisation, notably by humanitarian, regional, cross-border cooperation and by projects supporting directly or indirectly democratisation and democratic forces in Belarus".

The principal objectives of EU cooperation with Belarus are therefore to support the needs of the population, to directly and indirectly support democratisation, and to mitigate the effects of the self-isolation of Belarus on its population.

The National Indicative Programme (NIP) for 2007-2011 translates these objectives into two priority areas:
i) Social and economic development, including actions to alleviate the consequences of the Chernobyl catastrophe, and;
ii) Democratic development and good governance.

For the period 2007-2011, a total of EUR 46.07 million has been allocated to Belarus.
The breakdown was follows:

Priority Area	*Allocation (%)*
1. Social and economic development	**70%**
2. Democratic development and good governance	**30%**

The National Indicative Programme (NIP) for 2012-2013 was adopted on the 11.10.2011.

It is proposed that the focus of EU assistance for the period 2012-2013 should be on the following critical issues: support for democratic governance and economic reforms. Belarus will continue to receive support through other EU assistance instruments.

The NIP 2012-2013 and its implementation will take into account the Eastern Partnership (EaP) priorities for reform and further developments in EU-Belarus relations.

The following priorities and sub-priorities of the NIP 2012-2013 are proposed:

- Priority area 1: Good governance and people-to-people contacts
  - Sub-priority 1: Good governance standards
  - Sub-priority 2: People-to-people contacts
- Priority area 2: Economic modernisation
  - Sub-priority 1: Market economy development
  - Sub-priority 2: Local and regional development

Under the NIP 2012-2013, Belarus could benefit from €56.69 million from the European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI). This includes €4.81 million earmarked for the Comprehensive Institution Building Programme (CIB), and €10.38 million earmarked for the Pilot Regional Development Programmes.

Below are indicative allocations for the National Indicative Programme for Belarus[2] for each priority from 2012 to 2013:

Priority Areas	**M €**	**%**
Priority area 1: Good governance and people-to-people contacts	€20.75	50%
Priority area 2: Economic modernisation	€20.75	50%
Total Indicative ENPI allocations 2012-2013	**€41.50**	100%

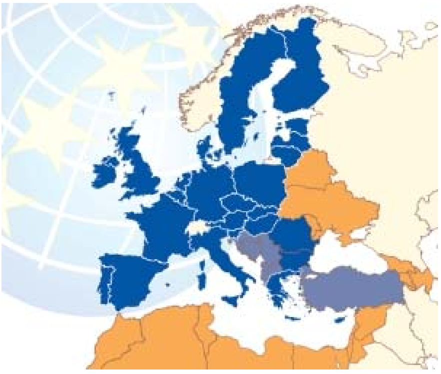
EaP top-up[3]	**M €**
Comprehensive Institution Building	€4.81
Pilot Regional Development Programmes	€10.38
Total EaP top-up	**€15.19**

Total ENPI , including EaP top-up	**€56.69**

The programming of the Annual Action Programme to be derived from the NIP should be taken forward, in conformity with the usual procedures. However, a decision to discontinue effective implementation could be taken at any stage, on a case by case basis, depending on developments in the EU-Belarus relationship.

[2] These are planning figures, in the absence of adopted programming documents, and are subject to change in the context of EU-Belarus dialogue.
[3] Access to the EaP top-up is subject to a further decision to be taken by the EU as regards Belarus' participation in the EaP bilateral track.

General Policy Initiatives: Overview



European Neighbourhood Policy

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was developed in 2004, with the objective of avoiding the emergence of new dividing lines between the enlarged EU and our neighbours and instead strengthening the prosperity, stability and security of all concerned. In this way, it also addresses the strategic objectives set out in the December 2003 European Security Strategy.

The European Neighbourhood Policy (ENP) was first outlined in a Commission Communication on Wider Europe in March 2003, followed by a more developed Strategy Paper on the European Neighbourhood Policy published in May 2004. This document sets out in concrete terms how the EU proposes to work more closely with these countries. As part of its report on implementation, in December 2006 and again in December 2007, the Commission also made proposals as to how the policy could be further strengthened.

The EU offers our neighbours a privileged relationship, building upon a mutual commitment to common values (democracy and human rights, rule of law, good governance, market economy principles and sustainable development). The ENP goes beyond existing relationships to offer a deeper political relationship and economic integration. The level of ambition of the relationship will depend on the extent to which these values are shared. The ENP remains distinct from the process of enlargement although it does not prejudge, for European neighbours, how their relationship with the EU may develop in future, in accordance with Treaty provisions.

The European Neighbourhood Policy applies to the EU's immediate neighbours by land or sea – Algeria, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Egypt, Georgia, Israel, Jordan, Lebanon, Libya, Moldova, Morocco, Occupied Palestinian Territory, Syria, Tunisia and Ukraine. Although Russia is also a neighbour of the EU, our relations are instead developed through a Strategic Partnership covering four “common spaces”.

The central element of the European Neighbourhood Policy is the bilateral ENP Action Plans agreed between the EU and each partner. These set out an agenda of political and economic reforms with short and medium-term priorities. Implementation of the ENP Action Plans (agreed in 2005 with Israel, Jordan, Moldova, Morocco, the Palestinian Authority, Tunisia and Ukraine, in 2006 with Armenia, Azerbaijan and Georgia, and in 2007 with Egypt and Lebanon) is underway.

Implementation is jointly promoted and monitored through sub-Committees.

Since the ENP builds upon existing agreements between the EU and the partner in question (Partnership and Cooperation Agreements, or Association Agreements in the framework of the EuroMediterranean Partnership), the ENP is not yet ‘activated’ for Belarus, Libya or Syria since no such Agreements are yet in force.

European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument

The European Neighbourhood and Partnership Instrument (ENPI) is the financial instrument for European neighbourhood policy (ENP). It is addressed to ENP partner countries including Russia and offers co-funding for promoting good governance and equitable social and economic development process. The ENPI also supports cross-border and trans-regional cooperation as well as the gradual economic integration of recipient countries with the European Union (EU) beneficiary countries.

Scope of the ENPI

The ENPI supports the following in particular:

- political reform: establishment and adaptation of institutional and administrative capacities, good governance, rule of law, respect for human rights, participation of civil society, multicultural dialogue and the fight against fraud, corruption, organised crime and terrorism;
- economic reform: economic development, market economy, intensification of trade and regulatory convergence with the EU in the areas of common interest with a view to gradual economic integration with the internal market;
- social reform: integration, employment, non-discrimination, fight against poverty;
- sectoral cooperation, in sectors of common interest in particular: environment, sustainable development, energy, transport, telecommunications, health, food security, education and training, research and innovation;
- regional and local development, and regional integration (Euro-Mediterranean regions and regions of Eastern Europe);
- participation in Community programmes and agencies.

In addition, the ENPI can provide support to electoral observation and post-crisis missions and to disaster preparedness.

Management and implementation

Programmes implemented in the field adhere to a strict **programming** process. Priorities and indicative amounts are initially anticipated in multiannual programming papers for national, multi-country and cross-border strategies (for the entire period) and multiannual indicative programmes (three-year, in principle). Annual action programmes and joint programmes for cross-border cooperation, usually annual, that provide details, financial allocations and a timetable are adopted on this basis. The latter constitute the basis for programmes implemented in the field, namely:

- national and multi-country programmes for each partner country, and regional and sub-regional cooperation: The nature of the programmes is determined by the characteristics of the country or the region, the partner's ambitions and progress achieved;
- cross-border cooperation programmes for cooperation between partners and Member States sharing a land or sea border. Cross-border cooperation actions are presented in joint operational programmes (JOPs) by partner countries and are then adopted by the Commission and managed by a joint authority established, in principle, in a Member State.

However, multi-country programmes may also provide for cross-regional cooperation between Member States and partner countries on common interest issues with no geographical restrictions. Moreover, third countries and territories benefiting from another external assistance instrument may participate in global, regional or cross-border programmes.

The budget for the ENPI amounts to 11 181 million for the period 2007-2013, of which 95% is for national and multi-country programmes and 5% for cross-border cooperation programmes.

Measures benefiting from the ENPI concern primarily the implementation of programmes and projects, technical assistance and administrative cooperation such as the dispatch of experts. These measures can be support measures for the application of the Regulation.

The ENPI can also finance investments and microprojects. It can finance support for budgets that are transparent, reliable and efficient, and for the implementation of sectoral and macroeconomic policies. It

can support the participation of partner countries in the capital of international financial institutions (IFIs) or regional development banks. However, fiscal measures are excluded from the Regulation's scope.

It can also contribute to the resources at the disposal of the Community, the Member States and financial intermediaries such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), international and regional organisations and other donors.

The actions can be co-funded by the EU and other donors; they can also be funded by the EU and implemented by an international organisation.

However, the Council can suspend assistance in the case of failure to respect the basic values of the EU and its relations with its partners.

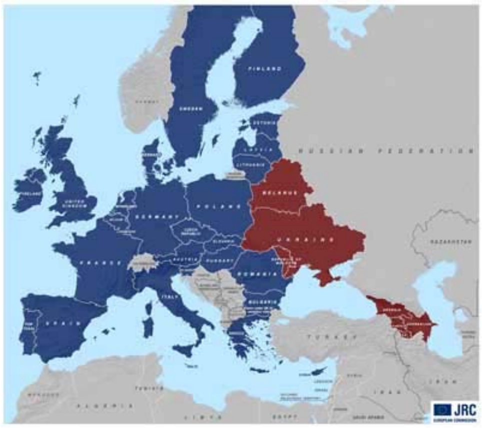
Bodies eligible for funding include decentralised institutions and entities in partner countries and regions, mixed organisations, international and regional organisations, IFIs, European institutions and agencies to a certain extent and non-governmental players.

Furthermore, a number of rules have been defined for tendering for government contracts and grant agreements which are open to natural and legal persons of partner countries, Member States, European Economic Area States (EEA) and countries that are beneficiaries of the Instrument for Pre-accession Assistance (IPA), having traditional links with partner counties or reciprocal access to external assistance. This participation is also available to international organisations.

Implementation of the ENPI should guarantee effectiveness of assistance, consistency and compatibility with EU policies and external assistance, with the objectives set and with international commitments. It should also guarantee protection of the Community's financial interests, which the Commission and the Court of Audit monitor.

In principle, management is ensured by the Commission, assisted by a committee, but it can also be decentralised. The Commission regularly evaluates its implementation. Specifically, it is required to present a report before 31 December 2010 for the first three years of application of the Regulation and propose any necessary amendments.

Eastern Partnership – Multilateral Dimension



Four thematic platforms

- Democracy, good governance & stability (including JLS):
  - ✓ Also covers electoral standards, media regulations, the fight against corruption, civil service reform, judicial and police cooperation, confidence building measures, security related issues etc.
- Economic integration and convergence with EU policies
  - ✓ Trade and market related approximation, socio-economic development, poverty reduction, social inclusion, equal opportunities, health, environment and climate change
- Energy security
  - ✓ Accelerated convergence of energy policies and legislation with EU, construction and rehabilitation of key energy infrastructure, support for the Southern energy corridor, extension of Odessa-Brody pipeline etc.
- Contacts between people
  - ✓ Culture, support to NGOs, strengthen civil society, increase student and academic exchanges, better integration into 7th Framework Research Programme, joint media projects

Six flagship initiatives

- **Integrated Border Management Programme:**
  - ✓ Alignment to EU standards, a prerequisite for progress on the mobility;

- **SME Facility:**
  - ✓ Small and medium enterprises would receive stimulus through technical assistance, financial intermediaries, risk capital and loans;

- **Regional electricity markets, improved energy efficiency and increased use of renewable energy sources**
  - ✓ This also includes the interlinking of the electricity grids;

- **Southern energy corridor**
  - ✓ This is a key infrastructure initiative serving to diversify transit routes and sources of supply for the EU and its partners;

- **Prevention of, preparedness for, and response to natural and man-made disasters**
  - ✓ Strengthen disaster management capacities and establish effective cooperation between the EU and the partner countries and among themselves

- **Good environmental governance**
  - ✓ Promote environment protection, including addressing climate change, through strengthened environmental governance

Northern Dimension



The Northern Dimension (ND) policy was elaborated in 1999 with the participation of Norway, Iceland, EU Member States and the Russian Federation. Geographically the ND focuses increasingly on northwest Russia, Kaliningrad, the Baltic and the Barents Seas, the Arctic and Sub-Arctic areas. The main objectives of the policy are to provide a common framework for the promotion of dialogue and concrete cooperation, strengthen stability and well-being, intensify economic cooperation, promote economic integration, competitiveness and sustainable development in Northern Europe.

Apart from the major partners, the **other stakeholders** are: the Council of the Baltic Sea States (CBSS), the Barents Euro Arctic Council (BEAC), the Arctic Council (AC), the Nordic Council of Ministers (NCM), international financial institutions, such as the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the Nordic Investment Bank (NIB); NGOs, trade unions etc. Canada and the United States perform the roles of the observers.

The **renewed ND policy** was launched at Helsinki Summit in November 2006. As a result, the cooperation among the actors in the region was intensified substantially. At the political level the new ND Political Declaration and ND Policy Framework Document were adopted to substitute the Action Plans of 2000-2003 and 2004-2006. The two main characteristics of the renewed policy are: 1) the co-ownership of EU, Iceland, Norway and Russia and 2) the strong link between the ND policy and the four EU/Russia Common Spaces, agreed in 2004 and specified in Road Maps adopted in 2005.

In order to facilitate the project implementation within the framework of the ND policy, the following **partnerships** were created: the Northern Dimension Environmental Partnership (NDEP) and the Northern Dimension Partnership in Public Health and Social Wellbeing (NDPHS). In October 2008 the decision to establish the ND Partnership on Transport and Logistics was taken.

Belarus is involved in ND Environmental Partnership and has applied to become an observer to the ND Policy (to be discussed at the ND Ministerial Meeting on November 2, 2010 in Oslo).

June 8, 2010 ENPI Infocenter:
The ND Partnership on Transport and Logistics will soon have a Helsinki-based Secretariat to help find transport projects. 7 out of 11 PC have signed a formal agreement to set up the Secretariat. The remaining four, incl Belarus and Russia, adopted a deal of intent pledging to join in the coming months once the internal procedures are concluded.

ND Environmental Partnership had a meeting in Minsk on October 6-8, 2010.

Covenant of Mayors

The **EU is leading the fight against climate change** as one of its top priorities. It has introduced the most ambitious targets of their kind in the form of the '20-20-20 by 2020' initiative within the 'Climate Action and Renewable Energy Package'. As a result, Member States are committed to curbing their CO2 emissions by at least 20% by 2020. The Covenant of Mayors takes this one step further through a voluntary agreement to go beyond these targets.

While coordination from European institutions and Member State governments is vital, **local authorities have a key role in mitigating climate change**. Over half of greenhouse gas emissions are created in and by cities. And 80% of the population lives and works in cities, where up to 80% of energy is consumed. Mayors often have better control than national governments over issues influencing their cities. Moreover, they can address the challenges in a coherent way, be it development of alternative energy or pollution control, energy management or changes in behaviour by public authorities and citizens.

On behalf of the European Commission, **Energy Commissioner Andris Piebalgs proposed a Covenant of Mayors to bring together European local leaders** in a voluntary effort to contribute to the achievement of the ambitious EU targets. After wide consultation, many European cities expressed their willingness to join the Covenant of Mayors.

Signatories to the Covenant commit to submitting their local Sustainable Energy Action Plans (SEAPs) within the year following adhesion. These cities are then expected to provide periodic public reports outlining the progress of their Action Plans. Signatories accept termination of their involvement in the Covenant in case of non-compliance.
Cities also commit to allocating sufficient human resources to the tasks, mobilising society in their geographical areas to take part in the implementation of the action plan, including organisation of local energy days, and networking with other cities.

Since a number of **cities in the Neighbourhood East countries have shown interest in joining the Covenant initiative**, AidCo is now considering an energy project to be financed under the ENPI-East RAP 2010, in support of the extension of the Covenant to these countries.

The global objective of an "**Extension of the Covenant of Mayors to the NIS**" is to encourage and support local authorities in the NIS to achieve a more sustainable local energy policy. This includes a significant reduction in energy consumption and CO2 emissions as well as an increase in renewable energy use and energy efficiency measures. The exact scope of the project is currently being identified in all partner countries of the INOGATE programme in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The project implementation is expected to start early 2010.

USEFUL LINKS

European Commission: http://ec.europa.eu/index_en.htm

European Neighbourhood Policy: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/index_en.htm

EuropeAid website for Belarus: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/where/neighbourhood/country-cooperation/belarus/belarus_en.htm

Delegation to Belarus Website: http://eeas.europa.eu/delegations/belarus

TACIS/ENPI National Coordinating Unit: http://www.cu4eu.net

Website for Non State Actors/Local Authorities projects: http://www.Eurobelarus.info

EuropeAid website: http://ec.europa.eu/europeaid/work/funding/index_en.htm

CBC Poland-Belarus-Ukraine: http://www.pl-by-ua.eu/en

CBC Latvia-Lithuania-Belarus: http://www.enpi-cbc.eu/

CBC Baltic Sea Region: http://eu.baltic.net/

Framework Programme 7 in Belarus (FP7 National Coordinator: Olga Meyerovskaya): http://fp7-nip.org.by

Programmes in the field of Education: http://eacea.ec.europa.eu/index_en.php

Eastern Partnership: http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/eastern/index_en.htm

Northern Dimension: http://ec.europa.eu/external_relations/north_dim/index_en.htm

Multi-Country Cooperation Instruments and Thematic Tools of the EU:

http://www.enpi-info.eu/files/publications/supp%20change%20EN.pdf

CSP 2007-2013 and NIP 2007-2011: http://ec.europa.eu/world/enp/pdf/country/enpi_csp_nip_belarus_en.pdf

National Tempus Office: http://tempus.unibel.by